

Decline in production of cotton

4668. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for decline in production of cotton in the last two years; and
- (b) the action Government proposes to take to encourage farmers to grow more cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir. In 2009-10, Cotton production in the country was 240.21 lakh bales, compared to which in 2010-11, cotton production was 330.0 lakh bales. As per the 3rd Advance Estimate, cotton production in 2011-12 is likely to be 352.00 lakh bales.

(b) Government of India is implementing Mini Mission II of Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) to increase the production and productivity of cotton in the country. Under this Mission assistance is provided for various interventions, like production & distribution of certified seeds, training of farmers & extension officials, Farmers Field School, Front Line Demonstrations, supply of Pheromone traps/bio-agents/bio-pesticides/drip/sprinkler/sprayers, Bt. Cotton management strategies, pest monitoring and surveillance, etc.

Private sector investment in agriculture

4669. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an urgent need to attract private sector investment in agriculture, especially for storage and transport infrastructure, if things are to improve;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the Twelfth Plan period; and
- (c) the steps taken in this direction in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh and the funds spent for the period so far and action plan prepared for the Twelfth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is need to attract private sector investment for infrastructure development in agriculture sector.