

31,80,329 numbers of artisans (including renewal) were covered under the scheme from 2009-10 to 2012-13.

Statement-II

Year wise details of premium paid under RGSSBY during the last four years

Year	Fund Released (Rs. in Crores)
2009-10	67.97
2010-11	24.18
2011-12	31.97
2012-13	26.15
TOTAL	150.27

Scheme for the promotion and increase of textile production

1533. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been launched to promote and increase production and quality of cotton in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any study has been conducted in the last five years to know the difficulties being faced by cotton growers in different parts of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government of India commissioned the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) on February 21, 2000 to address the issues of raising productivity,

improving quality and reducing the cost of production and thus provide competitive advantage to the textile industry along with ensuring attractive returns to the farmers. The 10th Plan scheme was operational upto 31.03.2007. However, the Scheme MM III and IV of TMC were further extended in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for two years *i.e.* upto 31.3.2009 to accomplish target and completion of the projects.

(c) and (d) In order to protect the interests of the farmers, every year, Government fixes the MSP on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). Accordingly, taking into consideration recommendation of the CACP, the support price during 2013-14 for medium staple length cotton has been fixed at Rs. 3700/- per quintal and for long staple at Rs.4000/- per quintal.

(e) and (f) No specific study on difficulties being faced by cotton growers has been undertaken. However, Government of India had engaged the services of ICRA Management Consulting Service Ltd., in 2011 for assessing the impact of TMC under Mini Missions MM-III and IV. The study *inter alia* revealed that farmers lacked understanding of good quality cotton and have limited awareness of good harvesting, storage and transportation practices and that there is a scope for education, training of farmers in areas of best farm practices, usage of new technologies and better packing, storage and transportation practices.

Ownership of NTC in Gujarat and Maharashtra

1534. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) how many textile mills are under the ownership of National Textile Corporation (NTC) in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) the status of each mill *i.e.* whether the mill land has been sold or is yet to be sold and/or the mill is running or revived;

(c) the details regarding method of land valuation in the mills which are sold out; and

(d) how many posts of Directors including Chairman, NTC are vacant and the reasons for such vacancies?