

Purchased in lakh bales of 170kg each		
Cotton Season	Total Production in Gujarat	Total Procurement of Cotton by CCI in Gujarat
2010-2011	106.20	2.34
2011-2012	122.00	2.17
2012-2013	93.00	0.02
2013-2014	124.00	0.75

(c) Steps undertaken to promote cotton farming include:-

- (i) Fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton and undertaking MSP operations as per requirement;
- (ii) Under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) Commercial Crops (CC) (Cotton) programme, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation provides assistance for production and distribution of seeds, field demonstrations, farmers' training, use of water saving devices, integrated pest management etc. NFSM-CC (Cotton) is being implemented in 15 major cotton growing states including Gujarat and also provides assistance for trials on High Density Planting System (HDPS), frontline demonstrations on inter-cropping, Extra Long Staple (ELS)/Desi Cotton, besides programme on Insecticides Resistance Management (IRM) and Online Pest Monitoring & Advisory Services (OPMAS) through State Departments of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) etc.

Pension scheme for old age weavers

3148.SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is considering introduction of a pension scheme for providing assistance to old age weavers; and

(b) whether Government would take necessary steps for providing financial assistance of ₹600.00 lakhs for setting up of Handloom and Handicraft Museum at Bhubaneswar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government of India has not received any such proposal for consideration at present. However, a Handicrafts Museum has been set up at the State Institute for Development of Arts and Crafts (SIDAC), Bhubaneswar in the year 2004 with financial assistance by Office of the Development Commissioner for Handicrafts.

Setting up of mega clusters in Karnataka

3149.PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an initiative to set up new mega clusters in Karnataka under the 'Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme' in the recent future, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the performance and impact of existing clusters in Ilkal and Molakalmuru on the local livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The mega handloom clusters are taken up as per the Budget announcements. In the Budget 2014-15, two mega handloom clusters, one each in Tamil Nadu and Bihar were announced.

(b) The State Government of Karnataka has informed that in the Ilkal and Molakalmuru handloom clusters sanctioned by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, various interventions like skill up-gradation, technology up-gradation, product diversification, margin money to weavers etc. were implemented, which resulted in increase in wages of weavers from ₹150/- to ₹250/- per day in Ilkal cluster and ₹200/- to 250/- per day in Molakalmuru cluster. In both the clusters, social and economic conditions of the weavers improved.

Promoting handicrafts

3150.DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has identified major clusters in West Bengal and rest of the country for promoting handicraft, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the promotional incentives Government proposes to provide in these clusters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) In addition to five major clusters namely