

India's cotton output to fall on delayed sowing, low yield

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Cotton output in India is likely to decline by a marginal two per cent due to massive decline in yield following delayed sowing last year.

Data compiled by the ministry of textiles showed total cotton output at 39 million bales (1 bale = 170 kgs) this season ending September 2015, against 39.8 million bales of the fibre production reported last year. The fall in cotton was estimated after various stakeholders met on Tuesday in the Cotton Advisory Board meeting here.

“The fall in output can be attributed to delayed rainfall in the last monsoon season, resulting in a delay in sowing. While sowing caught momentum with the onset of the monsoon rainfall, which resulted into massive increase in overall sowing, yield could not catch up accordingly. Next year too, we are estimating sowing to remain higher, for which much would depend upon price movement,” said Kiran Soni Gupta, textile commissioner, ministry of textile.

Meanwhile, the public sector procurement agency plans to procure only nine million bales of cotton this year, involving a sum of ₹16000 crore of which it has already procure 8.6 million bales.