

Raw materials from Vardhman group met the HMoA, submitted a memorandum and impressed upon the immediate need for removing 11% import duty on cotton. Copy of the memorandum is attached.

After giving a patience hearing HMoA stated that the Government had to balance the interest of cotton producers (Farmers) and the user industry to have a win-win situation. He stated that he would consider the demand of the industry after having a consultation with the entire stakeholder's during the course of the day.

HMoA, in his opening remarks during the consultation meeting highlighted about the Mission for Cotton Productivity and also stated about the demand made by the industry to remove the 11% import duty on cotton. Few farmers during the discussion requested the Government to retain the duty. However, after listening to the views given by Dr K Selvaraju on behalf of the industry, HMoA appreciated the immediate needs of the industry and stated that imports might be inevitable under the current scenario to mitigate the cotton shortage, import quality cotton and nominated cotton to sustain the growth of the industry and exports.

He stated that the country would become self-sufficient in cotton by 2030 due to the Mission on Cotton Productivity. It may be noted that the Union Government has already enhanced the fund for Mission for Cotton Productivity from Rs.2,500 Cr to Rs.5,900 Cr by enhancing the allocation for Mini Mission -I (Seed Technology and Agronomy Practice from Rs.1,200 Cr to Rs.4,600 Cr) realizing the urgent need for the cotton seed technology up gradation and implementing Global best agronomy practices. The Government would be liberal in enhancing the budget allocation and enable to increase the production, productivity and farmers income by 2030.

Dr K SELVARAJU
Secretary General