

# OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Gujarat Vidhansabha, Gandhinagar.

## Press Note

16<sup>th</sup> December, 2011

- The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has announced a package of Rs 2000 Crores for cotton farmers.
- Like the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Gujarat Chief Minister should also announce a package for farmers growing cotton, potatoes and other food grains.
- The Farmers cell of Gujarat Congress will take out rallies at all taluka headquarters of Gujarat demanding a similar package announcement by the Gujarat Chief Minister.
- The Maharashtra Chief Minister has announced a relief of Rs 3000/Hectare for cotton farmers. What will the Gujarat Chief Minister announce?
- In the past, Congress Governments have given substantial prices to the farmers through market interventions.
- The Gujarat government, which charges VAT to farmers on manure, insecticides, pesticides and diesel, should provide affordable prices to the farmers.
- Even though the Centre has allowed 100 percent exports in cotton, the prices of cotton are not breakeven for the farmers. It is then the responsibility of the State government to provide proper prices to the farmers.

The Congress government in Maharashtra has announced a special relief package worth 2000 Crore Rupees for the cotton farmers. Gujarat and Maharashtra are pioneer states in cotton production in the entire country. Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Shaktisinh Gohil has demanded that Gujarat Chief Minister should immediately announce a package similar to that announced by the Maharashtra Chief Minister for the farmers growing cotton, potatoes and other food grains.

The Maharashtra Chief Minister has announced a 2000 Crore Rupee special relief package, an approximate relief of Rs 3000/Hectare for cotton farmers and various steps for providing life supporting prices to the cotton farmers. Apart from cotton, relief has also been announced for Soyabean and food grain farmers by the Maharashtra government. Farmers growing cotton, potatoes and other food grains in Gujarat have faced many difficulties this year. After facing inadequate rains and weather, spiraling manufacturing costs the farmers are not getting proper prices for their produce. The 100 % export permission in cotton given by the Centre has also not been able to give an upward push to the prices of cotton.

He said that the decision of Maharashtra government to give relief of Rs 2,000 crore has helped farmers fight the grim situation. Like the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Gujarat Chief Minister should also announce a package for farmers growing cotton, potatoes and other food grains.

The Gujarat government, which charges VAT to farmers on manure, insecticides, pesticides and diesel, should provide affordable prices to the farmers. Gujarat has maximum VAT on diesel. Gujarat sells electricity to other states but four lakh farmers are waiting for electricity connection since BJP rule started in Gujarat.

The Farmers cell of Gujarat Congress will take out rallies at all taluka headquarters of Gujarat from December 26 demanding a similar package announcement by the Gujarat Chief Minister. Gujarat government is indifferent to the demands of Congress while showering all incentives on few industrialists.

For the benefit of farmers the Maharashtra Chief Minister has this year announced special insurance scheme for five types of crops. He has announced special scheme for the development of cloth industry so that the cotton growing farmers get good prices. In addition to it arrangements have also been made so as the farmers get good prices in the state itself. He has also announced reconstitution of a committee to ensure fair prices to farmers. The Maharashtra CM is also trying to give incentives to cotton based industries so that the farmers are benefitted. On the other hand Guajrat CM is wasting crores of rupees from the state treasury on his political games of Sadbhavna. If Modi has Sadbhavna for farmers then he should also announce packages for the benefit of farmers like Maharashtra CM.

In the past the Congress governments in Gujarat had purchased groundnut worth crores of rupees to create buffer stock for the farmers. Institutes like GROFED had purchased groundnuts to benefit farmers. The Congress governments and recently the Shankersinh Vaghela government supported by Congress did market intervention so that the farmers get good remunerative price for their products. Gujarat CM should announce some incentive package for farmers.

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To,  
The Editor,

Hon'ble Leader of Opposition has requested to kindly publish this press note in your esteemed newspaper.

**(J. J. Rasanía)**  
Personal Assistant