

Falling cotton prices spark protests in Telangana

BIG SLUMP. Rates are ruling at ₹6,800-7,500/quintal down from as high as ₹9,800 last year

KV Kurmanath
Hyderabad

With cotton prices ruling lower than last year, growers of Telangana have decided to hold State-wide protests, demanding ₹15,000 a quintal. The discontent over low prices is widespread and hundreds of farmers on Saturday held a dharna at Asifabad, a key cotton centre in the State.

“Though the marketing season started off well, prices began to decline and fell to ₹6,800 a quintal. This is just a little over the minimum support price,” a farmer, who took part in the dharna, told *businessline* over phone.

Cotton is grown on about 50 lakh acres in the State. Enthused by record prices in the previous season when prices went up to ₹9,800,



UP IN ARMS. The All-India Kisan Sabha has decided to hold State-wide protests from January 4, demanding increase in prices

ton in 2022. Despite heavy rains and floods damaging the crop in several parts of the State, farmers had resown the fibre crop. “The cost of production went up because of the second sowing. We are expecting better

ditional investments,” the farmer said.

The All-India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) has decided to hold State-wide protests from January 4, demanding an increase in prices. “The prices have been deliberately kept

for cotton,” S Malla Reddy, a senior AIKS leader, said.

BOLL GROWTH IMPACT

The sustained rain spells during July-September had led to vegetation of the crop, adversely impacting the growth of bolls. “This has resulted in a drastic fall in output. We estimate a fall of 50 per cent in output. It should be around 20-25 lakh bales this year as against 45 lakh bales last year as farmers reported yields of only 2-4 quintals an acre as against 6-8 quintals,” he said.

Pradesh Congress Committee President Revanth Reddy has extend his support to the protesting farmers, demanding that the State and Central governments ensure a price of ₹15,000 a quintal.

Prices of the commodity are ruling in the range of ₹6,800-7,500 a quintal in dif-