

Cotton blooms on hopes of rising demand

Our Correspondent

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Hopes of local and export demand rising from next week checked the fall in cotton prices on Friday.

The Sankar-6 variety was traded at Rs 38,000-38,500 a candy of 356 kg. While 33,000-35,000 bales of 170 kg each arrived in Gujarat, 1.1-1.2

lakh bales arrived in rest of the country on Friday. Raw cotton or *kapas* fetched Rs 821-910 for a *maund* of 20 kg while for delivery to ginners it sold at Rs 920-925 for a *maund*.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, the December contract increased by Rs 300 at Rs 17,800 a bale while Ja-

nuary gained Rs 290 at Rs 17,800 a bale.

Local and export demand is likely to be higher in the coming days and reports on Chinese imports may push up prices next week, a Rajkot-based broker said. Though arrivals may cap the gains, prices will not fall at present, he added.

According to traders' estimate, so far 24 lakh bales have arrived in the current season. Seven to eight lakh bales have arrived in Gujarat, seven lakh bales in the North zone and three to four lakh bales in Maharashtra.

Meanwhile, the Union Minister of State for Textiles, Ms Panabaaka Lakshmi, said

the Cotton Corporation of India would open over 275 purchase centres across the country, of which 75 would come up in Andhra Pradesh. She said farmers were getting Rs 3,800 a quintal from private buyers and the corporation's intervention was not needed now.