

Concern over raw cotton import

LAHORE: Claiming that textile mills are importing raw cotton through Torkham and Wagha borders, farmers have opposed the import terming it against the law and detrimental to local cotton growers` as well as national interests.

`At least 300 trucks carrying 50,000 tons of cotton are waiting at Torkham borders for a green signal from the Plant Protection Department (DPP) and National Food Security & Research Ministry, Pakistan Kisan Ittehad President Khalid Mahmood Khokhar said here on Thursday.

He said if allowed the import would not only depress local cotton prices to the disadvantage of growers but might also hurt the indigenous crop because the country had no fumigation facilities at borders to make the import pest free.

Quoting the law that governs import of cotton, he said the import was also illegal for raw cotton could only be imported with prior permission of the DPP and taking phyto-sanitary measures complying with sub Rule 3 of Rule 28 of Plant Protection Quarantine Act 1967.

The rule also disallows cotton import other than Karachi sea port, where quarantine and fumigation facilities were available.

By Our Staff Reporter