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Title: Need to allow private sector companies to purchase cotton from farmers in Andhra Pradesh-laid.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR): Sir, it is a well known fact and the Government is also aware that cotton farmers have been agitating as their stocks of cotton are being purchased only by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). CCI have fixed the procurement price of cotton at Rs. 3,000 per quintal. Due to non-operation of private traders, shifting and buying is taking place at a very slow pace.

At present, only CCI is buying cotton throughout the State of Andhra Pradesh. Even if the cotton farmers off-load their produce at CCI, weighing is done only after a week or 10 days. CCI is claiming that there is no space in its warehouses to unload the stock. Hence, farmers have to keep their produce in the trucks itself as there is paucity of space.

Under the circumstances, I would like to suggest to the Hon'ble Minister that he should immediately pass directions to the concerned authorities to allow private traders to buy the Cotton from the farmers and it should be ensured that stocks of farmers are not kept for weighing for a week or ten days. Immediate attention should be paid to this to help the farmers who wait for days to unload their stocks.