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Title: Need to address the problems of cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh by opening more purchase centres by the Cotton Corporation of India.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (BHADRACHALAM): In Andhra Pradesh the cotton growers are facing severe hardship due to not getting Minimum Support Price. The Rose Bole Worm, which has infected the crop heavily, has caused lesser yield. The CCI has purchased ten per cent of the crop and the remaining 90 per cent crop holders are at the mercy of the private traders. The cotton is purchased at Rs.1,400 to Rs.1,800 per quintal, thus exploiting the poor peasants for Rs. 1,000 per quintal.

The frustrated farmers have shown their anger by resorting to *rasta roko* and *dhama*. It is the responsibility of the Government to come to the rescue of the farmers by arranging more buying centres to buy the crop and giving relaxation in the grading criteria to curtail private traders. There is also need to take measures to eradicate the most dangerous Rose Bole Worm infection.