

Title : Need to set up cotton purchase centres of Cotton corporation of India in Nalgonda and Rangareddy districts of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY (NALGONDA): Thank you, Sir.

Farmers in Nalgonda and Rangareddy districts are selling off huge quantity of cotton to middlemen and private buyers at a cheap rate due to the absence of purchase centres of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). Knowing well how to make hay while the sun shines, the market forces are buying cotton at the farmers' doorsteps in a big way.

However, no effort is being made by the Central Government to operate CCI purchase centres at Konda Mallepally, Suryapet and Valigonda in Nalgonda district and Vikarabad, Thandur, Pargi, Marpally Mandal, Chevella in Rangareddy district. Farmers raised cotton in more than 1.5 lakh acres and they reaped 7-9 quintals per acre in many areas.

Farmers have taken serious exception to the delay in opening the CCI centres in these districts. Farmers are at the mercy of private parties since the Government machinery has failed to come to their rescue at this critical juncture. Officials have failed to encourage the farmers to approach the CCI centres.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to take immediate steps to procure the cotton from farmers by opening Cotton Purchase Centres in the above- referred places. CCI has also to visit the doorsteps of the farmers who are unable to bring their produce to the centres. It is also requested that efforts be made in quick delivery of payments to the farmers.