

**Title:** Regarding sale of cotton at a distress price in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K.YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue relating to cotton farmers. The cotton farmers of Andhra Pradesh and other States are selling cotton at a distress price. They are not getting the Minimum Support Price. After the WTO Agreement and after the removal of Quantitative Restrictions, we are importing a large quantity of cotton. That is why farmers are not getting remunerative price and Minimum Support Price. I am asking, through you, the Government of India to instruct the Cotton Corporation of India to purchase cotton from the farmers at Minimum Support Price. We are levying customs duty at five per cent on the imported cotton. If we extend it to 25 per cent, instead of five per cent, we can stop imports to a certain extent. Then, farmers in our country will get Minimum Support Price. Cotton growers are demanding this everywhere. This is the most urgent issue. If the Government takes decision after the farmers sell their produce at a distress price, then the farmers will not be benefited. I would like to inform the Government of India, through the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, that farmers of not only Andhra Pradesh but also Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are suffering.

13.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

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14.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four minutes  
past Fourteen of the Clock.*

*(Shri Basu Deb Acharia in the Chair)*