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Title: Need to instruct Cotton Corporation of India to open purchase centres in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh for making purchases directly from the farmers at the prescribed minimum support price. - Laid.

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY (NARASARAOPET): The cotton growing farmers of Andhra Pradesh, particularly Guntur District have produced large quantity of cotton this season. The farmers spent a lot of money in procuring pesticides and fertilizers used for their produce after having taken loans from various quarters. The minimum support price for cotton fixed by Government is Rs.2,010/- per quintal whereas brokers are purchasing it from farmers @ Rs. 1600/- and reselling it @ Rs. 1800/- putting the farmers at great loss.

I shall, therefore, request the Central Government to instruct Cotton Corporation of India open purchase centres at Gurajala, Danchepalli and Macherla and purchase cotton direct from the farmers at fixed support price so that farmers may get adequate return of their produce and clear their debt liabilities besides not being driven to commit suicides.