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Title: Need to take steps to enhance the foodgrain storage facility in Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh-laid.

DR. KRUPARANI KILLI (SRIKAKULAM): Srikakulam District in Andhra Pradesh is one of the most backward districts in the State. This region is mostly agriculture based. The expected rice production in the district during the current Kharif season is 8 lakh metric tons. The storage capacity available in the district is 80,000 metric tonnes. The storage capacity is very less as compared to the crop production in the district. Due to the shortage of the storage capacity in the district, the farmers are suffering a lot. The storage capacity in the district is required to be increased enormously. I understand that according to a study by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) in 2007, there is a total storage gap of 89.42 lakh tonnes in the entire country. To create additional capacity, the Government has formulated a scheme for construction of storage godowns through private entrepreneurs. Under the scheme, the Food Corporation of India would give a guarantee of 10 years for assured hiring. A capacity of about 150 lakh tonnes is to be created under the scheme through private entrepreneurs and Central and State Warehousing Corporations. In the Eleventh Five year plan, the Planning Commission has sanctioned Rs. 149 cores for the construction of Storage godowns by FCI and the State Governments. In view of the backwardness of the Srikakulam district, I request the Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to sanction more storage capacity for Srikakulam district to help the farmers in the State. This would go a long way in helping the people, particularly the farmers of the backward district.