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Title: Need to encourage building silos for storing foodgrains in the country.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Food Corporation of India has informed that a quantity of 6702 tons during 2009-10, 6346 tons during 2010-11, 3338 tons during 2011-12 and 1160 tons during 2012-13 got damaged and became non-usable due to various reasons such as Storage, pest attack, leakage in godowns, spillage during movement, handling of stocks, exposure to rains in case of unscientific Storage and Storage in kutcha plinths.

Further it is said that 4.75 crore tons of wheat and 2.85 crore tons of rice are being stored now in various godowns.

It is estimated that nearly 3 fold grains are stored than the required quantities. The problem of plenty is once again troubling our government. Fears are rising that the grains would be out in the open, rot and eaten by rodents even as millions go hungry in the country. The government's plans to create additional Storage space have so far moved at a snail's pace. For instance the additional Storage capacity of 1.9 million tonnes planned by 2012-13 through public-private partnership (PPP) only 0.5 M.T. could be created till January, 2012. As a result it is estimated 7% of the country's annual grain production goes waste due to insufficient Storage.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to encourage building silos whenever possible by providing incentives. In silos, manpower will be very low, use of gunny bags will be nil, Storage life will be upto 5 years. Further, the quality of the grains will be good because of inbuilt temperature, prevent losses in Storage, no access to insects and above all there will be no wastage. The cost per ton for Storage will be reasonable.