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title: Need to make provision for setting up of godowns for storage of foodgrains on platforms of railway stations across the country.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Owing to an increase in the central pool, stock generated increased under the UPA Government from 196.38 lakh metric tonnes (April 2008) to 823.17 lakh metric tonnes (June 2012). There is an urgent need to increase storage facilities across the country.

I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards the loss of foodgrains due to inadequate storage facilities and inefficient movement of foodgrains from surplus regions to deficit regions which is a matter of grave concern.

I propose a Public-Public Partnership model between the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and the Ministry of Railways.

There are more than 7000 Railway stations in the country. One of the platforms of some railway stations which are not on the main line and which have fewer train stoppages can be used as storage spaces. The foodgrains will be safe on the already raised plinth of the railway stations. Wherever required, sheds can be constructed on them.

The proposal will cater to the issues of proper storage of grains across every part of India and their timely efficient movement due to the proximity to railway network.

Besides securing our foodgrains, this proposal will bring down the extra cost incurred by the Government on logistics and higher rent given for hiring private godowns.