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Title: Need to set up adequate facilities for storage of foodgrains in the country.

SHRI P.C. MOHAN (BANGALORE CENTRAL): Between 2005 and 2013, FCI has admitted that more than 1,94,502 metric tonnes of foodgrains worth several crores have been wasted in the country due to several reasons. According to the data available, the damaged stock which stood at 95,075 MT in 2005-06 came down to 3,148 MT in 2012-13. The wastage was at 25,353 MT in 2006-07, 4,426 MT in 2007-08, and 20,114 MT in 2008-09. Further it states that of the damaged stock, around 84 per cent (1,63,576 MT) was rice and 14 per cent wheat (26,543 MT). When so many people are dying due to hunger, so much of foodgrain is getting wasted. Even though the authorities may claim that the wastage is due to natural calamities like cyclone and floods, the real reason is inadequate storage facilities, pilferage, transit loss and negligence of the contractors like in Gujarat which attracted the strictures passed by the Gujarat High Court.

According to the United Nation's hunger report, India had the highest number of hungry people in the world estimated at 194 million. FCI's Central pool is having 568.34 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. Anticipating the poor monsoon predicted, the Central Government should take immediate steps for storage of foodgrains, increase FDI in all sectors with a stipulation to enhance percentage of investment in cold storage and encourage food processing industries. The Government should release excess foodgrains under PDS to the poor people through the States at concessional cost.