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Title: Need to take steps to increase the cold storage installed capacity to 61 million metric tonnes in the country.

SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVANNAMALAI): India has 6,300 cold storage facilities unevenly spread across the country, with an installed capacity of 30.11 million metric tonnes. Studies have shown this is half the amount of cold storage facilities that India actually needs. Cold storage capacity for all food products in the country should be more than 61 million metric tonnes. In order to reach that target, an investment of more than Rs.55,000 crore is needed by 2015-16 just to keep up with growing fruit and vegetable production levels. The Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of our hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has been supporting food processing and cold storage industries in the State of Tamil Nadu. Madam Speaker, the country is losing several thousand crores of fruit and vegetables every year.

So, I request the Union Government to take steps to achieve the above said target and to curtail the loss of fruit and vegetables.