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Title: Need to review the decision to invite private investors for setting up foodgrain storage facilities in the country.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY (MATHURA): Due to high global wheat prices, crores of poor people of the country are sleeping hungry and tonnes of wheat is rotting under tarpaulin which shows that we do not have an effective foodgrain distribution and trade strategy. The Government is debating a law on food security, which would entail ramp-up in the storage and distribution infrastructure. There are inadequacies in our food grain storage policy and infrastructure. Government's estimates point out that food items worth Rs 58000 crore are wasted annually. Assurances in Parliament to probe into the matter have had no impact. There are problems in almost all northern states. Uttar Pradesh a major producer of foodgrains lacks sufficient storage capacity and there is no representation in FCI's plans to set up 127.65 lakh tonnes of storage capacity through entrepreneurs. In the light of the need for investment in modern storage facilities, I demand a review of the schemes to invite private investment, and also request the Government to step up public investment to enhance capacity of central agencies and to encourage states to follow the same.