

Steel silos storage with bulk handling facility can be operated round the clock which not only brings in flexibility and improves overall efficiency, but also ensures better preservation of foodgrains and enhances its shelf life.

Accordingly, Government of India has also approved an action plan for construction of steel silos in the country for a capacity of 100 LMT in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. As on 30.06.2019, a total capacity of 43.75 LMT has been planned in Punjab. Against this, a capacity of 2.75 LMT of steel silos has been created.

Introduction of new standard weighing system

2304. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any new standard weighing system has been introduced in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any target period has been fixed to switch over to the new weighing system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (c) No new standard of weighing system has been introduced in the country. However, Government is aware that the International Bureau of Weights and Measures overhauled the definition of a kilogram as well as all the other basic units of measurement based on physical constants. The Government has examined these changes and supported the proposal for change in definitions of these units.

Aadhaar-based exclusion from PDS

2305. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of/has a list of hunger deaths in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any of these can be attributed to exclusion from Public Distribution System;
- (c) whether Aadhaar-based exclusions are a key reason for this, if so, the details thereof; and