

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

(d) the reasons why despite Supreme Court's order, there are many cases of Aadhaar-based exclusion in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (d) A few reports have of late appeared in the media citing non-linking of Aadhaar with Ration Cards as one of the reasons for the difficulties faced by the beneficiaries under NFSA in getting their entitled quota of foodgrains. In this regard, the State Governments have informed that the allegations made in the media reports of deaths due to starvation have not been substantiated.

Further, provisions of the Notification issued under the Section-7 of the Aadhaar Act 2016, *vide* SO No. 371[E] dated 08/02/2017 [as amended from time to time] by the Department, all eligible beneficiaries entitled to receive subsidized foodgrains, under the National Food Security Act, 2013 [NFSA], who do not possess Aadhaar number or, are not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, but are desirous of availing the subsidized foodgrains, are required to make an application for Aadhaar enrolment by 30/09/2019, and also linking of Aadhaar with Ration Cards/Beneficiaries ensure correct identification of beneficiaries and their rightful delivery of subsidized foodgrains under NFSA.

This Department has issued instructions to all States/UTs *vide* letter dated 24.10.2017 that no beneficiary/household shall be deleted from the list of eligible beneficiaries/households only on the ground of not possessing an Aadhaar number, and shall also not be denied from subsidized foodgrains or cash transfer of food subsidy under NFSA due to failure of biometric/Aadhaar authentication because of network/connectivity/linking issues/poor biometric of the beneficiary or other technical reasons. This Department has again issued instructions to all States/UTs *vide* letter dated 08/11/2018 that owing to failure of biometric/Aadhaar authentication, no genuine beneficiary shall be denied from foodgrains entitled under NFSA.

Rotting of foodgrains

†2306. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the foodgrains storage capacity in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the wheat rotted due to the shortage of godowns, during last three years, State-wise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.