

**THE STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS
AND MEASURES BILL, 1956**

(AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA)

THE STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
BILL, 1956

(AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA)

A

BILL

to establish standards of weights and measures based on the metric system.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956. Short title,
extent and
commence-
ment.

5 (2) It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(3) It shall come into force on such date, not being later than ten years from the passing of this Act, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different
10 dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act or for different areas or for different classes of undertakings or for different classes of goods.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,— Definitions.

15 (a) "First General Conference of Weights and Measures" means the Conference Generale des poids et Mesures held at Paris in 1889;

(b) "International Bureau of Weights and Measures" means the Bureau Internationale des poids et Mesures at Sevres in France;

20 (c) "kilogram" means the mass of the platinum-iridium cylinder deposited at the International Bureau of Weights and

Measures and declared international proto-type of the Kilogram by the First General Conference of Weights and Measures;

(d) "meter" means the distance, at zero degree centigrade and under normal atmospheric pressure, between the axes of the two median lines traced on the platinum-iridium bar deposited at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures and declared international proto-type of the metre by the First General Conference of Weights and Measures;

(e) "normal atmospheric pressure" means the pressure exercised by 101325 newtons per square meter, a newton being the force which imparts to a mass of one kilogram an acceleration of one meter per second per second.

Primary unit of length.

3. (1) The primary unit of length shall be a meter.

(2) For the purpose of deriving the value of the meter, The Central Government shall cause to be prepared a national proto-type of the meter and shall cause the same to be certified in terms of the international proto-type of the metre and shall deposit the same in such custody and at such place as the Central Government may think fit.

Primary unit of mass and standard unit of weight.

4. (1) The primary unit of mass shall be a kilogram.

(2) For the purpose of deriving the value of kilogram, the Central Government shall cause to be prepared a national proto-type of the kilogram and shall cause the same to be certified in terms of the international proto-type of kilogramme and shall deposit the same in such custody and at such place as the Central Government may think fit.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the primary unit of mass for precious stones shall be a carat which is equal to one-five-thousandth of one kilogram.

(4) The standard unit of weight at any place shall be the weight of the primary unit of mass at that place.

Unit of time.

5. (1) The primary unit of time shall be a second.

(2) A second means $1/31,556,925.975$ of the length of the tropical year for 1900.0, the year commencing at 12:00 hours univresal time on the 1st day of January, 1900.

6. (1) The unit of electric current shall be an ampere.

Unit of electric current.

(2) An ampere means that constant current which, flowing in two parallel straight conductors of infinite length, of negligible circular cross section and placed at a distance of one meter from each other in vacuum, produces a force of 2×10^{-7} newtons per meter length between the conductors.

7. The scale of temperature shall be the centigrade scale where the temperature, under normal atmospheric pressure, is taken to be zero degree at the melting point of ice and one hundred degrees at the boiling point of water.

Scale of temperature.

8. (1) The unit of luminous intensity shall be the candela.

Unit of luminous intensity.

(2) A candela means one-sixtieth part of luminous intensity normally emitted by one centimeter square of integral radiator (black body) at the temperature of solidification of platinum.

9. The primary unit of area shall be the square meter.

Primary unit of area.

10. The primary unit of volume shall be the cubic meter.

Primary unit of volume.

11. The unit of capacity shall be a litre which is the volume occupied by the mass of one kilogram of pure air-free water at the temperature of its maximum density and under normal atmospheric pressure.

Unit of capacity.

12. The Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare the magnitude and denominations of such units of mass and measures, as it thinks fit, to be the secondary units of mass and measures under this Act:

Secondary units of mass and measures

Provided that every such secondary unit shall be an integral power of ten (positive or negative) of any one of such primary units.

(1) The units of mass and measures referred to in sections 3 and 4 and sections 9 to 11, both inclusive, and the secondary units of mass and measures declared under section 12 shall be the standards of mass and measures.

Standards of mass and measures.

(2) No unit of mass or measure other than the units of mass and measures referred to in sub-section (1) shall be used as a standard of mass or measure.

Continuance
of certain
weights and
measures
during
transitional
period.

14. (1) Notwithstanding that this Act has come into force in respect of any area or class of goods or undertakings, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, permit the continuance of the use, after such commencement, in respect of that area or class of goods or undertakings, of such weights and measures, in addition to the standards of mass and measures and for such period, not exceeding three years, as may be specified in the notification. 5

(2) Nothing in sub-section (1) shall be deemed to empower the Central Government to issue any such notification in respect of any weight or measure which was not in use immediately before the commencement of this Act. 10

Sets of stan-
dards of
mass and
measures.

15. (1) The Central Government shall cause to be prepared as many sets as it may deem necessary of such standards of mass and measures referred to in section 13 or multiples or sub-multiples thereof as the Central Government may consider expedient, and shall cause each mass and measure of such set to be authenticated as having been ascertained from the primary units of mass or measure, as the case may be. 15

(2) The Central Government shall supply to each of the State Governments as many such sets as it may deem fit. 20

Conversion
of existing
weights and
measures
into standard
mass and
measures.

16. (1) The value expressed in terms of any weight set forth in sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Standards of Weight Act, 1939 or in terms of any measure expressed in inches, feet, yards or miles or in gallons may be converted into the value expressed in terms of a standard mass or measure at the rates specified in the First Schedule. 25

9 of 1939

(2) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify the rates at which the value expressed in terms of any weight or measure other than those referred to in sub-section (1) may be converted into the value expressed in terms of a standard mass or measure. 30

(3) All references in any enactment or in any notification, rule or order under any enactment or in any contract, deed or other instruments to a value expressed in terms of any weight or measure other than those of a standard mass or measure shall be construed as references to that value expressed in terms of a standard mass or measure, as the case may be converted thereto at the rates specified in the First Schedule or in the notification issued under sub-section (2), as the case may be. 35

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(4) Where in any transaction, the value expressed in terms of any weight or measure is required to be converted into that value expressed in terms of a standard mass or measure under this section, the calculation, for the purposes of such transaction, shall be made in such manner as may be prescribed by rules.

17. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the purpose of this Act. ^{Power to make rules.}

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the preparation of the standards of mass and measures under section 15;

(b) the custody of the set of standards of mass and measures which are to be maintained by the Central Government and the periodical verification and adjustment thereof;

(c) the periodical verification and adjustment of sets of standards of mass and measures supplied to the State Governments;

(d) the limits of error which may be tolerated in the standards of mass and measures when they are manufactured for being used, or are being used, in transactions generally, or in any class of transactions in particular;

(e) the manner in which the value expressed in terms of any weight or measure other than in terms of a standard of mass and measure may be converted thereto; and

(f) any other matter which has to be, or may be, prescribed.

(3) All rules made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after they are made, before both Houses of Parliament.

2 of 1889.
9 of 1939.

18. (1) The Measures of Length Act, 1889, and the Standards of Repeal. 30 Weight Act, 1939, are hereby repealed.

(2) The enactments specified in the Second Schedule shall, to the extent to which they contain any provision which corresponds to any provision of this Act, stand repealed.

(3) If, immediately before the commencement of this Act or any provision thereof in respect of any area or class of goods or undertakings, there is in force in respect of that area or class of goods or undertakings, any law which corresponds to this Act or to any

provision thereof and which is not repealed by sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), that corresponding law shall stand repealed.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

[See section 16(1)]

STANDARDS OF WEIGHT

1 grain	= 0.000064799	kilogram.	
1 ounce	= 0.0283495	kilogram.	
1 pound	= 0.4535924	kilogram.	
1 cwt.	= 50.802	kilograms.	
1 ton	= 1016.05	kilograms.	10
1 tola	= 0.0116638	kilogram.	
1 seer	= 0.93310	kilogram.	
1 maund	= 37.3242	kilograms.	

STANDARDS OF LENGTH AND CAPACITY

1 inch	= 0.0254	metre (exact).	15
1 foot	= 0.3048	metre (exact).	
1 yard	= 0.9144	metre (exact).	
1 mile	= 1609.344	metres (exact).	
1 imperial gallon.	= 4.54596	litres.	

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

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[See section 18(2)]

1. The Assam Adoption of Standard Weights Act, 1955, (IX of 1955).
2. The Bhopal State Weights and Measures Act, 1953, (XV of 1953).

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3. The Bihar Weights Act, 1947, (XVII of 1947).
4. The Bombay Weights and Measures Act, 1932, (XV of 1932).
5. The Central Provinces and Berar Weights and Measures of Capacity Act, 1928, (II of 1928).
6. The Cochin Weights and Measures Act, 1112, (LXIII of 1112).
7. The Coorg Act, 1954 (VII of 1954).
10. The Hyderabad Weights and Measures Act, (XIV of 1356 Fasli).
9. The Madhya Bharat Weights Act, 1954, (21 of 1954).
10. The Madras Weights and Measures Act, 1948, (XXII of 1948), as in force in the State of Madras or of Andhra.
15. The Mysore Weights and Measures Act, 1902, (III of 1902).
12. The Orissa Weights and Measures Act, 1943, (VII of 1943).
13. The Punjab Weights and Measures Act, 1941, (XII of 1941).
14. The Rajasthan Weights and Measures Act, 1954, (XIX of 1954).
20. The Travancore Weights and Measures Act, 1085, (VI of 1085).
16. The United Provinces Weights and Measures Act, 1947, (XXIII of 1948).

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The standards of weights and length have been laid down in the Standards of Weight Act, 1939, and the Measures of Length Act, 1889, the standards being the seer, the pound, the yard and their multiples and sub-multiples. These standards, however, have not been effectively enforced throughout the country, with the result that different systems of weights and measures prevail in different parts of the country. Moreover, the same term often represents different units of weight in different areas and in different trades even within the same area. This state of chaos hampers trade and provides opportunity for the exploitation of the masses. There is urgent need for enforcing a uniform system of weights and measures throughout the country. The question has been under consideration of the Government for some time past and it is felt that the best course would be to adopt a uniform system of weights and measures based on the metric system. This system has already been adopted by nearly 70 countries and is recognised in all the countries of the world. Its adoption, together with the decimalisation of coinage, will be in the best interests of trade and Industry of our country.

2. The Bill seeks to lay down meter as the primary unit of length and kilogram as the primary unit of mass. It lays down standards not only for mass and length, but also for time, temperature, electric current and luminous intensity. The Bill merely lays down the standards of weights and measures. Under entry 50 of the Union List, Parliament is competent only to establish standards of weights and measures while under entry 29 of the State List, the actual implementation and enforcement of these standards would be the responsibility of State Governments.

3. The transition to the metric system will be gradual and according to a phased programme. A maximum period of ten years has been provided for the complete adoption of the system. While the transition should be gradual, a far too leisurely pace may defeat the purpose of the reform. The Bill seeks to repeal not only the two Central Acts, namely, the Standards of Weight Act, 1939, and the Measure of Length Act, 1889, but also every State Act in so far as it establishes any standard of weight or measure. During the transitional period, however, the use of the standards now prevailing will be permitted to the extent necessary.

N. KANUNGO.

New DELHI;

The 25th July, 1956.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clauses 3 and 4 of the Bill require the Central Government to have national proto-types of the Metre and Kilogram prepared and certified in terms of the international proto-types, and to deposit them with a suitable agency. The national proto-types will be purchased from the International Bureau of Weights and Measures and they will cost about one lakh of rupees. They will be deposited with the National Physical Laboratory which has the necessary facilities and will not have to incur additional expenditure for the purpose.

2. Clause 15 of the Bill requires the Central Government to prepare sets of standards authenticated from the primary units and to distribute them to State Governments. The standards will be manufactured in the Government of India mints. It will be necessary to provide additional equipment of the value of 4 to 5 lakhs rupees at the mints. It will also be necessary to employ extra staff for a period of one year. The estimated additional expenditure on staff and materials is about two lakhs of rupees. The total non-recurring expenditure in manufacturing and supplying standards is, therefore, about 7 lakhs of rupees.

3. Clauses 3, 4 and 15 of the Bill will involve a non-recurring expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India of about 8 lakhs of rupees.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 17 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules to carry out the purposes of the Bill when enacted. The matters in respect of which such rules may be made have been specified therein. They relate to the preparation and custody of sets of standard mass and measures and their periodical verification. The limits of error which may be tolerated when standard mass and measures are manufactured or used may also be provided by rules. The rules may also provide for the manner in which weights and measures now prevailing may be converted into standard mass and measures. Provision has been made that any rules made under this section shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

2. The proposed delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

LOK SABHA

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BILL

to establish standards of weights and measures
based on the metric system.

The President has, in pursuance of clause (3) of article 117 of the Constitution of India, recommended to Lok Sabha the consideration of the Bill.

M. N. KAUL,
Secretary.

*(Shri Nityanand Kanungo,
Minister of Consumer Industries).*