

MOST IMMEDIATE

**No. R- 11016/2/2015-P&C
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
(Department of Consumer Affairs)**

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated 22nd January, 2019

Subject: - Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for the month December, 2018 in respect of Department of Consumer Affairs – regarding.

Please find enclosed as Annexure to this letter, the unclassified portion of the Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for the Month **December, 2018** in respect of Department of Consumer Affairs for kind information. Hindi version will follow.


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To

Copy with enclosures, forwarded to through email

1. All Members of Council of Ministers.
2. PIO/Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
3. Secretary to Vice- President.
4. Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
5. Secretaries to the Government of India. (As per the list)
6. Chairmen, Union Public Service Commission, Dholpur House, New Delhi.
7. Deputy Chairman, NITI Aayog, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi.
8. Director (NIC) for uploading on the website of the Department.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs)

The following are the important activities of Department of Consumer Affairs during the month of **December, 2018**:

1. Consumer Protection Unit

- The Consumer Protection Bill 2018 was passed by the Lok Sabha on 20 December 2018. After receiving recommendation of the Hon'ble President, a motion has been moved by the Hon'ble Minister, CAF&PD to the Secretary, General, Rajya Sabha for consideration and passing the Consumer Protection Bill 2018.
- A conference was held at IIPA on 7th December, 2018 on "Mediation", which is one of the special features of the Consumer Protection Bill 2018.
- National Consumer Day 2018 was celebrated in DRDO, New Delhi on 24th December, 2018. The theme was "Timely disposal of the consumer cases". Representatives of the State Governments, State Commissions and President and Members of the NCDRC, VCOs, etc. attended the conference.

2. Pulses Buffer Stock:

- As on 31.12.2018, the available stock in the pulses buffer was 2.24 lakh MT after disposal of 18.26 lakh MT from 20.50 lakh tonnes procured/imported.
- Supplies to Army was regularly reviewed in weekly meetings. Several simplification in procedure were carried out/proposed to MoD.
- Recommendation of CoS was obtained on disposal of Small Lots of Pulses (<100 MT) at H1 rates in lieu of DRP.

3. Legal Metrology – MoU with NPL

- An MoU was signed on 28-12-2018 with CSIR - NPL for executing a project for setting up of atomic clocks for dissemination of Indian Standard Time (IST).
- Under the MoU, CSIR-NPL will provide technical expertise and establish secondary time ensembles at five Regional Reference Standard Labs (RRSLs) located at Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Faridabad and Guwahati. The MoU also envisages setting up of a Disaster Recovery Centre (DRC) at RRSL, Bengaluru. The operational laboratory space and technical manpower would be provided by the RRSLs and the project would be funded by this Department.

- Implementation of IST and its dissemination will reduce the error in time dissemination to just a few milli-to micro seconds. Accurate time dissemination would ensure national security and will enhance cyber security.

4. NCCF:

To prevent Government shareholding from going down through fraudulent means, a direction was issued under Section 122 of the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act that the NCCF may not give effect to the amendments to the bye-laws registered by the CRCS in November, 2017 and to amend the bye-laws so as to bring them to its original position consistent with the Act and Rules. Approval of ACC was obtained to replace the MD on account of grave dereliction of duty. The then Chairman of NCCF was disqualified to be Member of the Board of NCCF. Ld. Single Judge of Hon'ble High Court stayed the appointment of the new MD. Orders were passed to supersede the Board and appoint administrator. All possible steps were taken and are being taken to protect the Government interest and public interest in NCCF. The fraudulent share transactions/enrolment of new societies have been reported to CVC for investigation by an independent agency like CBI. Appeals have been filed against the interim stay orders of the Ld. Single Judge. Government remains the majority shareholder in NCCF.

5. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

A policy directive under Section 25 of BIS Act was issued to DG, BIS to take necessary action to finalize and notify the BIS (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations.

6. National Consumer Helpline.

Guidelines for the new scheme "Integrated Consumer Grievance Redressal" were formulated to integrate the national, zonal and State helplines. NCH handled about more than 48,000 grievances during the month. A total of 490 companies have been brought into convergence with NCH.

7. Budget:

A supplementary budget of Rs.20 crore was secured for computerization and computer networking of Consumer Fora (CONFONET Project) for replacing the old computers and for developing new softwares of e-filing and new Mobile App., etc.

An impending cut in the budget ceiling at RE stage was restored for utilization in the schemes of "CONFONET including Consumer For" and "Legal metrology including Time Dissemination Project".

8. The details of Annual rate of Inflation are as follows:

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Sr. No.	Indices	Inflation Rate (in %)		
		November, 2018 (Provisional)	October, 2018 (Provisional)	November, 2017 (Final)
1	Wholesale Price# Index(Annual)	4.64	5.28	4.02
2	Wholesale Price Index# (Food Articles)	-3.31	-1.49	6.41
3	Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers)	4.86	5.23	3.97
4	Consumer Price Index (Combined)*	2.33	3.38	4.88
5	Consumer Price Index (Consumer Food Price Index)*	-2.61	-0.86	4.35

*:- series 2012=100 #: New Base year 2011-12=100

9. Price trends for the month of December, 2018 over November, 2018 for all India monthly average retail prices from 109 centers across the country as reported by the respective Civil Supplies Departments of States/UTs are given at **Annexure-I.**

10 The update on other points to be reported to Cabinet Secretariat is at **Annexure II.**

Annexure-I**Prices of Essential Commodities – Trend over the past month:**

The All India monthly average Retail prices of 22 essential commodities from 109 centers across the country as reported by the respective Civil Supplies Department of State Government/ UTs are compiled and average retail prices for the month of December, 2018 over November, 2018 are given below:-

All India monthly Average Retail Prices of Essential Commodities (Rs /Kg)

Sl.No.	Commodity	December, 2018 (latest)	November, 2018 (previous) month)	Difference (In Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Rice	30	30	0
2	Wheat	25	25	0
3	Atta	27	27	0
4	Gram Dal	66	65	1
5	Tur Dal	72	70	2
6	Urad Dal	71	70	1
7	Moong Dal	75	74	1
8	Masoor Dal	61	62	-1
9	Sugar	38	38	0
10	Milk	43	42	1
11	Groundnut Oil	127	126	1
12	Mustard Oil	108	107	1
13	Vanaspati	81	81	0
14	Soya oil	91	91	0
15	Sunflower Oil	98	98	0
16	Palm Oil	76	77	-1
17	Gur	42	43	-1
18	Tea loose	209	209	0
19	Salt Pack	15	15	0
20	Potato	19	22	-3
21	Onion	19	22	-3
22	Tomato	22	23	-1

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments.

ANNEXURE II

Department of Consumer Affairs

1. Important policy matters held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultations:

NIL

2. Compliance of CoS decisions:-

Updated in e-Samiksha portal.

3. No of cases of 'sanction for prosecution' pending for more than three months:-

NIL

4. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the Government:-

NIL

5. Status of implementation of e-Governance:

Total No. of files	Total No. of e-files
153	129

6. Status of Public Grievances:

No of Public Grievances redressed during the month of December, 2018	No of Public Grievances pending at the end of December, 2018
876	424

7. Status of Grievances registered on National Consumer Helpline (NCH):

Total dockets registered on National Consumer Helpline (NCH) during the month of December, 2018.	Total dockets closed at the end of December, 2018.
48443	32004

8. Minimum Government, Maximum Governance:

Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) of the Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the retail and wholesale prices of 22 essential commodities on daily basis from 109 centres across the country. These prices are reported by State Civil Supplies Departments on daily basis mainly through online portal. These prices are disseminated through the Department website immediately. Because of the online price reporting, the time taken to report and dissemination is less. As per instructions/guidelines even other routine office work is being shifted on line to reduce delays and for more efficient results.
