

MOST IMMEDIATE

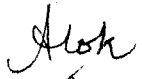
F.No.R-11016/02/2015-P&C
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
(Department of Consumer Affairs)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated 26 December, 2019

Subject: - Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for the month of November, 2019 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 of **November, 2019** in respect of Department of Consumer Affairs for kind information. Hindi version will follow.


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Director (P&C)
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To

Copy with enclosures, forwarded to through e-mail

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. Chairman, 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.

The following are the important activities of Department of Consumer Affairs during the month of November, 2019.

1. Pulses and Onion Buffer Stock:

1.1 Onion prices shot up in early November because of extensive crop damage due to untimely rain in the month of October in the producing areas, namely, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. A proposal for consideration of CCEA was prepared to import/procure 1.2 LMT of onions and to provide subsidy to the States for containing the prices. CCEA agreed in principle, to import 1.2 LMT of onions and authorise a Committee of Ministers (CoM) under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Home Minister and comprising of Minister of CA, F & PD, Agriculture Minister, Commerce Minister, Finance Minister and Minister of Road Transport and Highways to take appropriate decisions in the matter. The CoM met on 22nd November, 2019 (and again on 05 and 12 December 2019) and took various decisions on import of onions, relaxation of specifications, domestic procurement by NAFED, etc. The Committee also decided that a Calendar be prepared based on seasonality and other factors that may affect the area/production of onions, pulses and oil seeds.

1.2 Several meetings of the Price Stabilisation Fund Management Committee were held and imports of around 30,000 MT of onions was approved through MMTC. The stock limits were revised from earlier 50 and 10 to 25 and 2 MT for wholesalers and retailers respectively. 14 States submitted their demand for 15,000 MT onions. Decision was taken to enhance pulses Buffer Stock from 16 LMT to 19-20 LMT (Tur 10 LMT, Urad 4 LMT, Masoor 1.5 LMT, Moong 1 LMT and Chana 3 LMT). The State Governments were asked at the level of Hon'ble Minister, CA,F&PD to carry out anti-hoarding operations and consider the procurement and retailing of onions through their agencies. Private imports were encouraged by Government.

2. National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF):

2.1 Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide its Order dated 12 September 2019 constituted an Interim Board of NCCF consisting of one retired High Court Judge and 2 retired Secretaries of Government of India. The Interim Board held 2 meetings to review the situation of NCCF.

2.2 Shri Amit Mehta, Joint Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs has been given the additional charge of MD, NCCF after the superannuation of Shri Anil Bahuguna, then Joint Secretary holding the additional charge of MD, NCCF with the approval of Hon'ble Minister. DoPT has been requested to post a full-fledged MD for NCCF.

2.3 Shri Kamal Chowdhery, the then MD, NCCF was suspended in May, 2018 for grave dereliction of duty. Based on the request of Shri Chowdhery to revoke the suspension and repatriate to his parent Department and also an order of Hon'ble CAT, his suspension has been revoked with approval of Hon'ble Minister, CA,F&PD. A proposal to repatriate him to his parent Department (CGDA) has been sent to ACC for approval.

3. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

3.1 State Governments have been asked to consider mandating the BIS standards for piped drinking water. This is in line with the vision of Government to supply piped drinking water to every house-hold by 2024.

3.2 BIS (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations 2019 have been approved by Government and sent to BIS for notification. BIS has been asked to undertake prompt action to fill up 100 odd vacancies for Scientific Cadre based on the new Regulation.

4. Consumer Protection Act 2019:

The Rules and Regulations have been formulated and put up on the website for comments. The same will be finalised in the next 2 months.

5. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC):

Based on judgement dated 13 November 2019 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Writ Petitions challenging the rules notified under Section 184 of the Finance Act 2017, a corrigendum has been issued to fill up 6 vacancies of Member, in continuation of earlier vacancy Circular dated 18 July 2019, with last date on 24 December 2019.

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

The details of Annual rate of Inflation are as follows:

| Sr. No. | Indices | Inflation Rate (in %) | | |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | November, 2019 (Provisional) | October, 2019 (Provisional) | November, 2018 (Final) |
| 1 | Wholesale Price# Index (Annual) | 0.58 | 0.16 | 4.47 |
| 2 | Wholesale Price Index# (Food Articles) | 11.08 | 9.80 | -3.24 |
| 3 | Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers) \$ | 7.62 | 6.98 | 5.23 |
| 4 | Consumer Price Index (Combined)* | 5.54 | 4.62 | 2.33 |
| 5 | Consumer Price Index (Consumer Food Price Index)* | 10.01 | 7.89 | -2.61 |

*:- series 2012=100 #: New Base year 2011-12=100, \$ Latest up to October, 2019

7. Price trends for the month of November,2019 over October,2019 for all India monthly average retail prices from 114 centres across the country as reported by the respective Civil Supplies Departments of States/UTs are given at **Annexure-I**.

8. 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 114 centers across the country as reported by the respective Civil Supplies Departments of State Government/ UTs are compiled and average retail prices for the month of November, 2019 over October, 2019 are given below:-

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

| Sl.No. | Commodity | November, 2019 (latest) | October, 2019 (previous) month) | Difference (In Rs.) |
|--------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| 1 | Rice | 34 | 33 | 1 |
| 2 | Wheat | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| 3 | Atta | 30 | 29 | 1 |
| 4 | Gram Dal | 67 | 66 | 1 |
| 5 | Tur Dal | 88 | 87 | 1 |
| 6 | Urad Dal | 91 | 78 | 13 |
| 7 | Moong Dal | 88 | 85 | 3 |
| 8 | Masoor Dal | 65 | 63 | 2 |
| 9 | Sugar | 40 | 39 | 1 |
| 10 | Milk(per ltr) | 45 | 45 | 0 |
| 11 | Groundnut Oil | 135 | 134 | 1 |
| 12 | Mustard Oil | 113 | 111 | 2 |
| 13 | Vanaspati | 81 | 80 | 1 |
| 14 | Soya oil | 93 | 93 | 0 |
| 15 | Sunflower Oil | 102 | 101 | 1 |
| 16 | Palm Oil | 78 | 76 | 2 |
| 17 | Gur | 47 | 46 | 1 |
| 18 | Tea loose | 217 | 215 | 2 |
| 19 | Salt Pack | 16 | 15 | 1 |
| 20 | Potato | 23 | 21 | 2 |
| 21 | Onion | 61 | 47 | 14 |
| 22 | Tomato | 38 | 39 | -1 |

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments.

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 |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 246 | 213 |

6. Status of Public Grievances:

| No of Public Grievances redressed during the month of November, 2019 | No of Public Grievances pending at the end of November, 2019 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 969 | 837 |

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

| Total dockets registered on National Consumer Helpline (NCH) during the month of November 2019. | Total dockets closed at the end of November, 2019. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 71,066 | 43,243 |

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 111 centers across the country. These prices are reported by State Civil Supplies Departments on daily basis mainly through online portal. These prices are being disseminated through the Department's website immediately. Because of the online price reporting, the time taken for reporting and disseminating is less. As per instructions/guidelines even other routine office work is being shifted on line to reduce delays and for more efficient results.
