

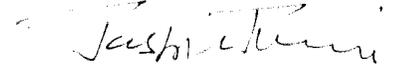
MOST IMMEDIATE

**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 17th March, 2020

**Subject: -Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for the month of February, 2020 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 **February, 2020** in respect of Department of Consumer Affairs for kind information. Hindi version will follow.



(Jasbir Tiwari)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Ph.No.23381233

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.

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 **February, 2020**.

1. Pulses and Onion Buffer Stock:

- 1.1 One Video Conference with States/UTs was held during the month to review status of disposal of Imported Onion and demand of States/UTs of pulses from buffer, for utilization under their welfare schemes/direct retailing.
- 1.2 Two meetings of the CoS were held during the month on 03.02.2020 and 25.02.2020 to review prices of essential commodities.
- 1.3 Committee of Minister under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Home Minister, were apprised of the onion scenario and status of disposal of imported onions in meeting held on 26.02.2020.
- 1.4 There was an increase in offtake of imported onions during the month. About 29,836 MT of onion was disposed/dispached out of 35,857 MT of imported arrivals under PSF by end of the month. Dispatches were arranged to Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Uttrakhand, Himachal Pradesh, West Bangal, Goa etc. Further, Disposal was also undertaken through auction. Mother Dairy, Kendriya Bhandar and NAFED were advised to retail imported onion to cool down their prices
- 1.5 Three meetings of IMC to review prices of essential commodities were held during the month.

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

Govt issued order u/s 123 of the MSCS Act, 2002 for supersession of the Board and appointment of Administrator on 24.07.2018. The Single Judge in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi stayed implementation of the same on 31.07.2018. Govt. filed LPA before the Division Bench. In its order dated 30.04.2019, Division Bench directed that: "We are of the considered view that if there is difficulty in implementing the order dated 31.07.2018, namely in carrying out the day to day activities without an Administrator, the appellants may seek modification or clarification of the order before the writ court. It would then be for the writ court to either decide the matter finally at an earlier date or to grant some other appropriate relief". Thereafter, an application was filed before the Single Judge who by order dated 10.05.2019 constituted an interim Board consisting of Petitioner No. 1 (Dr. Bijender Singh, Ex-Chairman, NCCF) Sh. Anil Bahuguna (who was appointed as MD by the Central Government) and Justice (Retd) Indermeet Kaur as Chairman of the interim Board. Aggrieved by this order, the Department filed LPA before Division Bench with the prayer to permit the appellant to appoint administrator. It was stated that Dr. Bijender Singh has incurred disqualification. The LPA was disposed of by the Hon'ble Court on 28.05.2019 which granted liberty to raise this issue before the writ court. The matter was discussed with the Ld. ASG and based on his advice, an application was filed in the Hon'ble High Court for having 2 retired Secretaries to Govt. of India on the interim Board instead Dr. Bijender Singh and the MD, NCCF (who is a non-voting member of the Board). Hon'ble Court vide its order dated 30.08.2019 has acceded to the request made by the Govt. Hon'ble Court vide its order dated 12.09.2019 has

constituted the Interim Board of NCCF. The meetings of the Interim Board were held on 28.10.2019 and 02.11.2019 and 31.01.2020. Sh. Amit Mehta, Joint Secretary, DoCA was assigned additional charge of the post of Managing Director, NCCF from 11.12.2019 to 29.02.2020 or till further orders, whichever is earlier as Sh. Anil Bahuguna, Joint Secretary, who was holding the additional charge of MD, NCCF retired on 30.11.2019 on attaining the age of superannuation. The Civil Services Board (CSB) in its meeting held on 13.01.2020 has recommended the name of Sh. Manoj Kumar Semwal, IRSEE (1992) for appointment as MD, NCCF. With the approval of Hon'ble Minister CAF&PD, the recommendation of CSB was accepted and communicated to the DOP&T for appointing Sh. Manoj Kumar Semwal as MD, NCCF. The decision of DOP&T is awaited. The Department vide letter dated 27.02.2020 has requested ACC to further extend tenure of Sh. Amit Mehta for a period of three months or till the formalities of regular appointment are completed, whichever is earlier.

2.1 Shri Kamal Chowdhery, the then MD, NCCF filed an OA before Hon'ble CAT on 22 April 2019 for quashing the suspension as well as chargesheet and repatriation to his parent Department. The request of Sh. Chowdhery for revoking suspension and repatriation to the Parent Department has been considered by the committee and submitted its recommendations to the Competent Authority. Consequently, the suspension of Sh. Chowdhery was revoked w.e.f 05.11.2019 and DOP&T has been requested to consider the proposal of repatriation of Sh. Kamal Chowdhery, IDAS prematurely in his parent cadre. The case was dismissed by the Hon'ble CAT on 25.11.2019 with direction to the respondents to finalise the issue pertaining to the premature repatriation of the applicant within two months from the date of receipt of a certified copy of the order. The DOP&T vide order dated 27.12.2019 accorded approval for repatriation of Sh. Chowdhery to his parent cadre i.e CGDA. Consequently, this Department vide order dated 20.01.2020 has relieved Sh. Chowdhery with the direction to report to his parent cadre with immediate effect.

3. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

3.1 Experts from India and Japan from the industry, research institutes, government and other stakeholders shared standardization experiences and recent developments in the area of e-mobility in a joint workshop organized by BIS in association with Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC), the national standards body of Japan, during 4-5 Feb 2020 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The exchanges covered a wide range of topics such as charging infrastructure, cells and batteries, safety requirements, etc.

3.2 'With the aim to sensitize and bring together all relevant stakeholders including Biomass Experts from Scientific, Academic, and Industrial domains for standardization for solid bio-fuels on priority, a full day Workshop on 'Need for Indian Standards on Solid Biofuels' was organized on Monday, 27 January 2020 at CSIR-CIMFR, Dhanbad' jointly by CSIR-CIMFR and BIS.

3.3 An official of BIS attended a meeting on procurement of Khadi item and availability of Indian Standard on the subject organized by ITBP, New Delhi on 29 Jan 2020 under the Chairmanship of IG, ITBP.. During the meeting, information about availability of Indian Standards for Hand towel, Blanket and

durries along with salient technical differences from existing QRs of Central Armed Police Forces were provided.

- 3.4 The Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekawat, inaugurated the National Conference on the provision of potable drinking water in quality affected areas at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 7th Feb, 2020. During the conference, the Hon'ble Minister urged all departments to work together for the success of Swachh Jal Mission. An official of BIS, gave a detailed presentation on the Indian Standard for Drinking Water IS 10500:2012 and proposed Conformity Assessment Scheme of BIS for piped water supply and distribution bodies. He insisted that State Governments and Public Health Departments should participate in the standards formulation activity and ensure compliance to IS 10500 specifications.
- 3.5 BIS organized a meeting for discussions on Quality of Food being provided in Anganwadis on 25, Feb 2020. During the discussions, it was understood that Ministry of Women & Child Development is running an Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Programme under which certain standards have been set for the preparation (recipe) of food being provided in Anganwadis for children and their mothers. It was learnt from the members that under the ICDS programme of Min of WCD, fortified food items are being used. It was thus agreed that a roadmap may be chalked out for the purpose and Min of WCD must also be made part of the group for further strategizing the action plan.
- 3.6 A meeting to discuss Draft Regulation on use of Membrane based Water Purification System as circulated by MoEF&CC was organized on 25 Feb, 2020.
- 3.7 Under the Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS) for Electronics & IT products, as on 25 February 2020, a total of 21842 registrations have been granted by BIS to the manufacturers located throughout the world. During February 2020, 362 applications were received and 386 registrations were granted.
- 3.8 Important steps taken to improve the Laboratories : (a) Renovation of Central Laboratory taken up with the help of CPWD: Structural strengthening work to start next month; (b) RFP for Laboratory Information Management System floated; (c) preparatory steps taken for floating RFP for procurement of equipments; (d) decision taken to set up referral Assaying Centres in all the BIS Labs; (e) decision taken to set up complete testing facility for drinking water and (f) Recognition policy for private labs revised.

4. Essential Commodities Act.

- Stock Limit on Onion under EC Act, 1955 for wholesalers and retailers has been withdrawn vide Order No. SO.901 (E) dated 27/02/2020 (copy enclosed).
- A meeting held on 14.02.2020 with IIPA to discuss modalities & scope of conducting comprehensive study on Essential Commodity, Act. IIPA agreed to provide a detailed proposal with an estimated cost, timeline, methodology, sample size, payment schedule etc.

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

Sr. No.	Indices	Inflation Rate (in %)		
		January, 2020 (Provisional)	December, 2019 (Provisional)	January, 2019 (Final)
1	Wholesale Price# Index(Annual)	3.10	2.59	2.76
2	Wholesale Price Index#(Food Articles)	11.51	13.24	2.41
3	Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers)	7.49	9.63	6.60
4	Consumer Price Index (Gen.)(Combined)*	7.59	7.35	1.97
5	Consumer Price Index (Consumer Food Price Index)*	13.63	14.19	-2.24

*:- series2012=100 #: New Base year 2011-12=100

6. Price trends for the month of February, 2020 over January, 2020 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.

7. The update on other points to be reported to Cabinet Secretariat is at Annexure-II.

Annexure-1**Prices of Essential Commodities – Trend over the past month:**

The All India monthly average Retail prices of 22 essential commodities from 114 centres 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 February, 2020 over January, 2020 are given below:-

All India monthly Average Retail Prices of Essential Commodities (₹/kg)

Sl.No.	Commodity	February, 2020 (latest)	January 2020 (previous) month)	Difference (In Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Rice	34	34	0
2	Wheat	29	29	0
3	Atta	30	30	0
4	Gram Dal	66	66	-1
5	Tur Dal	87	88	-1
6	Urad Dal	99	99	0
7	Moong Dal	96	93	3
8	Masoor Dal	68	67	1
9	Sugar	39	39	0
10	Milk(per ltr)	45	45	0
11	Groundnut Oil	137	137	0
12	Mustard Oil	118	117	1
13	Vanaspati	89	87	2
14	Soya oil	99	98	1
15	Sunflower Oil	108	106	2
16	Palm Oil	90	89	1
17	Gur	46	46	0
18	Tea loose	218	218	0
19	Salt Pack	16	16	0
20	Potato	23	27	-4
21	Onion	39	64	-26
22	Tomato	22	26	-4

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 263	Total No. of e-files 222
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6. Status of Public Grievances:

No of Public Grievances redressed during the month of February, 2020 770	No of Public Grievances pending at the end of February, 2020 344
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7. Status of Grievances registered on National Consumer Helpline (NCH):

Total dockets registered on National Consumer Helpline (NCH) during the month of February, 2020 50164	Total dockets closed at the end of February, 2020 36949
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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 114 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.
