

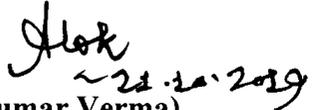
MOST IMMEDIATE

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 21st October, 2019

Subject: - Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for the month of September, 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 **September, 2019** 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 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 **September, 2019**.

1. Pulses and Onion Buffer Stock:

1.1 As on 30.09.2019, a buffer of 15.38 LMT of pulses has been set up by transfer from Price Support Scheme (PSS) of DACFW to PSF buffer stock.

1.2 MMTC floated tender for import of 2000 MT onions on 06.09.19, which closed on 24.09.19; on non-receipt of suitable bid, MMTC floated another tender for import of 2000 MT onions on 26.09.19 for delivery during Oct'19 and imposing a price ceiling.

1.3 Prices of onion increased sharply during the last month, hence Government took measures to control the prices, namely, ban on exports, imposition of stock limits and supply of onion from the central buffer to Governments of Delhi, Haryana, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh for retailing in the States / UTs. DoCA has also directed NAFED to retail onion through their own outlets and supply onions to SAFAL, Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF. As on 30.9.2019, 17,311 MT of onion has been disposed out of the buffer of 56,689 MT

2. Essential Commodities Act:

2.1 5th National Consultation Meeting (NCM) of Hon'ble Minister, CAF&PD with State Ministers was held on 03.09.2019. After detailed deliberations, an Action Plan was adopted in the meeting to be implemented over next 12 months. The decisions concerning this Department taken in the NCM, inter alia, include:

- (i) Enforcement of Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules;
- (ii) States to hold meetings with the dealers of essential food items especially pulses and onions, and regularly review prices for intervention, if need be;
- (iii) A buffer of about 16 LMT of pulses and 56,000 MT of onions is already available under PSF. States may utilize the stock for their welfare schemes like MDM, ICDS, PDS, etc. and for retailing;
- (iv) State may consider setting up their own State Level PSF;
- (v) States / UTs requested to furnish inputs for framing of rules under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019;
- (vi) Keeping the objective of doubling farmer's income in view, States may suggest amendments in provisions of EC Act or its Orders that may need liberalization to promote investment in the farm sector and allied supply chain activities.

3. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

3.1 A four member Indian delegation led by Secretary, Consumers Affairs and comprising of DG BIS, and other officials of BIS attended the ISO General Assembly (GA) and related meetings held during 16-20 Sep 2019 at Cape Town, South Africa. On the sidelines of ISO GA, meetings were also held with the National Standard Bodies of South Africa, Australia, Japan, USA, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Russia, Bhutan and Spain wherein issues of mutual cooperation were discussed.

3.2 A meeting on 'Replacing one time use Plastic Bottles for Drinking Water with alternatives' was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, CAF&PD on 09 Sept 2019. Officials of BIS and all other relevant stakeholders attended the meeting. The following items were identified as way forward:

- (i) Compostable plastics should be encouraged
- (ii) Water ATM should be installed at various places
- (iii) Multi-layer Plastics with compostable plastic layer may be permitted
- (iv) Need for R&D work for finding other alternatives
- (v) Consumer awareness.

3.3 The meeting was followed by a press conference by Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan on 17 Sept 2019 on 'Replacing one time use Plastic Bottles for Drinking Water with alternatives'. During the press conference Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and BIS officers explained the outcome of the meeting and the way forward.

3.4 A meeting on 'Review of the process of making standards and implementation of standards' was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, CAF&PD on 12 Sept 2019 with senior officers from different Ministries/Regulators. Wide ranging discussions were held on how standards are set and what can be done to make their implementation/enforcement better. While discussing the overlapping role of different Standards Developing Organizations, the convergence of efforts of standards formulation in the country under the aegis of BIS, the National Standards body was discussed. Hon'ble Minister exhorted that similar to "One Nation One Constitution" and "One Nation One Ration Card" there should be "One Nation One Standard".

3.5 A meeting to review the work of BIS Labs was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister on 24-09-2019. The meeting was attended by Hon'ble Minister of State, CA F&PD and officers of DoCA, BIS and various Ministries and Government Departments along with representatives of BIS recognized laboratories. It was discussed that BIS Laboratories should equip themselves with latest test equipments in order to modernize the laboratories while making use of IT/ Software for electronic transfer of data from test equipments. BIS was advised to regular interactions with various stakeholders including various Ministries and Regulators to have effective implementation of various Quality Control Orders and create testing facilities for new products being brought under new conformity assessment schemes of BIS. It was

discussed that BIS has made a standard IS 10500: 2012 for piped drinking water. However, this standard is voluntary and its implementation is up to various municipal corporations and water supply departments. It was decided to take up with the States for mandatory certification of piped drinking water.

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

Sr. No.	Indices	Inflation Rate (in %)		
		August, 2019 (Provisional)	July, 2019 (Provisional)	August, 2018 (Final)
1	Wholesale Price# Index (Annual)	1.08	1.08	4.62
2	Wholesale Price Index# (Food Articles)	7.67	6.15	-4.04
3	Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers)	6.31	5.98	5.61
4	Consumer Price Index (Combined)*	3.21	3.15	3.69
5	Consumer Price Index (Consumer Food Price Index)*	2.99	2.36	0.29

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

5. Price trends for the month of September, 2019 over August, 2019 for all India monthly average retail prices from 111 centres across the country as reported by the respective Civil Supplies Departments of States / UTs are given at **Annexure-I**.

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

Prices of Essential Commodities – Trend over the past month:

The All India monthly average Retail prices of 22 essential commodities from 111 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 September, 2019 over August, 2019 are given below:-

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

Sl. No.	Commodity	September, 2019 (latest)	August, 2019 (previous) month)	Difference (In Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Rice	32	32	0
2	Wheat	27	27	0
3	Atta	28	28	0
4	Gram Dal	66	66	0
5	Tur Dal	86	85	1
6	Urad Dal	75	75	0
7	Moong Dal	83	82	1
8	Masoor Dal	63	63	0
9	Sugar	39	39	0
10	Milk (Rs / Ltr)	44	44	0
11	Groundnut Oil	131	130	1
12	Mustard Oil	110	109	1
13	Vanaspati	80	79	1
14	Soya oil	93	92	1
15	Sunflower Oil	101	100	1
16	Palm Oil	76	75	1
17	Gur	45	45	0
18	Tea loose	214	212	2
19	Salt Pack	15	15	0
20	Potato	19	19	0
21	Onion	38	25	13
22	Tomato	31	39	-8

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
200	176

6. Status of Public Grievances

No of Public Grievances redressed during the month of September, 2019	No of Public Grievances pending at the end of September, 2019
1276	711

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

Total dockets registered on National Consumer Helpline (NCH) during the month of September, 2019.	Total dockets closed at the end of September, 2019.
75616	50302

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.