

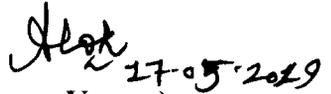
MOST IMMEDIATE

**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 May, 2019

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


(Alok Kumar Verma)
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.

**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 **April 2019**.

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

1.1 The Division Bench presided by Ld. Chief Justice by its order dated 18 March 2019 had stayed the operation of the order dated 09 May 2018 passed by Ld. Single Judge whereby Ld. Single Judge had stayed the Government direction issued under Section 122 of the MSCS Act asking NCCF not to give effect to the amendments to the byelaws registered by the CRCS in November, 2017. The Division Bench by order dated 22 April 2019 allowed the LPA and confirmed the interim order dated 18 March 2019 which shall remain in operation till disposal of the Writ Petition.

1.2 As regards, action against the Board of NCCF, a fresh LPA was filed on 30 April 2019 to give effect to the Government order under Section 123 of the MSCS Act. Division Bench directed that : "We are of the considered view that if there is difficulty in implementing the order dated 31.7.2018, 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.

With the aforesaid liberty, the appeal is disposed of".

1.3 Shri Kamal Chowdhery, the then MD, NCCF was placed under suspension on 10 May, 2018 pending departmental proceedings for major penalty. Thereafter, after taking CVC's first stage advice, he has been served chargesheet. Shri Chowdhery continues to be under suspension. He has filed another OA before CAT on 22 April 2019 for quashing the suspension as well as chargesheet. The matter is listed on 20 May 2019.

2. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC):

2.1 During the month of April 2019, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, for which this Department makes budgetary provisions, delivered the following judgments, which are noteworthy and in the interests of consumers:-

2.1.1 Pioneer Urban Land & Infrastructure Ltd. vs. Govindan Raghavan & Ors.

In the instant case, the Respondent / Flat Purchaser entered into an Apartment Buyer's Agreement with the Builder to purchase an apartment in Gurugram. The Builder failed to apply for the Occupancy Certificate as per the Agreement and subsequently, the Purchaser approached the National Commission. National Commission ordered for refund of full amount along with interest rate of 10.7%, higher than that mentioned in agreement (6%). Builder approached Supreme Court against the order of National Commission, but Supreme Court upheld the decision of National Commission noting that incorporation of one-sided clauses in a buyer/builder agreement constitutes an unfair trade practice as per Section 2 (r) of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

2.1.2 Jaypee vs. Ors.

The Supreme Court of India upheld the judgment of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) pertaining to the issues of maintainability of consumer complaints before the redressal commission.

The matter pertains to consumer complaints filed by aggrieved homebuyers against Jaiprakash Associate Ltd. (JAL). The order of the Commission had held that aggrieved homebuyers were entitled to proceed before the redressal commission and continue alongside the pending insolvency proceedings against Jaypee Infratech Ltd (Jaypee). Therefore, over 300 matters were allowed to be moved before the Commission.

2.2 Filling up of vacancies in NCDRC

The Department sought opinion of Ld. Attorney General regarding proceeding with issuing vacancy circular for filling up of vacancies in NCDRC, in view of the fact that a number of cases are before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the judgment is awaited. It will be the endeavour of the Department to expedite the filling up of vacancies. In the meantime, the Department has sent a proposal to ACC for extension of tenure of one Judicial Member by 6 months, whose tenure is coming to an end on 29/05/2019.

3. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

3.1 MoU of BIS with IIT-Delhi and IIT Mumbai

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) Delhi and Mumbai to collaborate in the field of standardization and conformity assessment.

3.1.1 According to the MoU, IIT Delhi and IIT Mumbai will develop infrastructure support for R&D Projects of relevance to standardization. BIS will provide financial support for such R&D Projects. The terms and conditions for infrastructure support

and finance will be jointly worked out based on the nature and the duration of the R&D Projects.

3.2 In view of new regulations not being notified by DG, BIS despite policy direction of Government, a Removal of Difficulty Order under the BIS Act, 2016 was notified in the Gazette on 10 April 2019. The above notification provides that the Bureau may, with the approval of the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette, make regulations consistent with the Act to carry out the purposes of the Act. The Bureau headed by Hon'ble Minister is thus the authority to make and notify the Regulations instead of the Executive Committee headed by DG.

4. Pulses Buffer Stock:

4.1 As on 30 April 2019, of the old stock of 20.50 LMT, 20.05 LMT has been disposed and balance is committed for supply to States. The buffer has been replenished through transfer of around 10.57 LMT procured under Price Support Scheme of DACFW.

4.2 Regular weekly review meetings on disposal of pulses were held during the month to discuss and solve issues regarding Pulses Buffer stock including Army supplies.

4.3 A video conference was held on 16 April 2019 to review the status of State level Price Stabilization Fund proposals. Also States / UTs were asked to examine the possibility of retailing onions / pulses from Central buffer stocks based on anticipated market scenarios in respective State / UT.

4.4 A note for the CoS was circulated on Pulses and Onion Outlook for the year 2019-20 and Management of its price on 16 April 2019.

5. Essential Commodities Act:

5.1 A note for the CoS was sent on 4 April 2019 on doing away with the requirement of annual / periodic renewal of licences in Orders issued under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

5.2 Meeting of Group constituted to monitor cartelization / hoardings and speculative trade in food items was held on 3 April 2019.

6. Consumer Grievances:

An all-time high number of grievances i.e 55,770 was registered in NCH in the month of April. Filing of consumer grievances through mobile app and through web is increasing viz-a-viz through telephone calls. All efforts are being made to resolve the grievances at the earliest.

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

Sr. No.	Indices	Inflation Rate (in %)		
		March, 2019 (Provisional)	February, 2019 (Provisional)	March, 2018 (Final)
1	Wholesale Price# Index (Annual)	3.18	2.93	2.74
2	Wholesale Price Index# (Food Articles)	5.68	4.28	-0.22
3	Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers)	7.67	6.97	4.36
4	Consumer Price Index (Combined)*	2.86	2.57	4.28
5	Consumer Price Index (Consumer Food Price Index)*	0.30	-0.73	2.81

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

8. Price trends for the month of April, 2019 over March, 2019 for all India monthly average retail prices from 109 centres across the country as reported by the respective Civil Supplies Departments of States / UTs are given at **Annexure-I**.

9. 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 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 April, 2019 over March, 2019 are given below:-

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

Sl. No.	Commodity	April, 2019 (latest)	March, 2019 (previous) month)	Difference (In Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Rice	30	30	0
2	Wheat	26	26	0
3	Atta	28	28	0
4	Gram Dal	65	65	0
5	Tur Dal	76	75	1
6	Urad Dal	72	72	0
7	Moong Dal	77	76	1
8	Masoor Dal	62	63	-1
9	Sugar	38	38	0
10	Milk	43	43	0
11	Groundnut Oil	127	127	0
12	Mustard Oil	108	109	-1
13	Vanaspati	81	81	0
14	Soya oil	92	92	0
15	Sunflower Oil	99	99	0
16	Palm Oil	75	76	-1
17	Gur	43	43	0
18	Tea loose	211	210	1
19	Salt Pack	15	15	0
20	Potato	16	15	1
21	Onion	16	16	0
22	Tomato	26	22	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	Total No. of e-files
221	175

6. Status of Public Grievances

No of Public Grievances redressed during the month of April, 2019	No of Public Grievances pending at the end of April, 2019
700	382

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

Total dockets registered on National Consumer Helpline (NCH) during the month of April, 2019.	Total dockets closed at the end of April, 2019.
55770	42300

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.
