

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 26th February, 2018

**Subject: - Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for the month January, 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 January, 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. PIO/Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
2. Secretary to Vice- President.
3. Secretaries to the Government of India. (As per the list)
4. Chairmen, Union Public Service Commission, Dholpur House, New Delh.

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 January, 2018:

1. Consumer Protection Bill, 2018 :

- Consumer Protection Bill, 2018 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 5th January, 2018. The salient features of the bill include establishment of an executive agency to be known as the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) which will be empowered to investigate, recall, refund and impose penalties; provision for product liability action in cases of personal injury, death or property damage caused by a product; mediation as an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), e-filing of complaints, etc.

2. Pulses Buffer Stock :

- As on 31.01.2018, the available stock in the pulses buffer is 16.52 lakh MT after disposal of 3.98 lakh MT from 20.50 lakh tonnes procured/imported.
- Disposal of pulses from the buffer is now being reviewed weekly with all the designated agencies by the Department to facilitate the process.
- PSFMC in its 25th Meeting held on 11th January, 2018 also identified another 5 lakh MT of pulses for disposal. Approval of DoE for dynamic reserve price formula for this stock has been sought.

3. Prices of Onions :

- Stock limit on onion was extended till 31-03-2018. States were advised to hold periodic meetings with the hoarders, farmers, retailers and consumer associations at the State and District levels.

4. Bureau of Indian Standards :

- The 5th annual meeting of the Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure was convened on January 15 and 16, 2018 in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by me and the German delegation was led by Mr. Stefan Schnorr, Director General for Digital and Innovation Policy at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. The Work Plan 2018 was signed for cooperation in identified areas of mutual interest including cooperation in areas of electro mobility, IT Security and data protection, machinery safety, automotive, legal metrology, market surveillance.
- Indian Standards on Petrol and Diesel were revised incorporating BS VI fuel specifications. The major change includes reduction of sulphur content from 50ppm (BSIV) to 10ppm (BSVI).
- Meeting of Assessment Committee was held and approval of Minister obtained granting Modified Flexible Complementing Scheme (MFCS) elevation from Level 'F' to Level 'G' to 14 Scientists/Officers of BIS.

5. Legal Metrology :

- The Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2017 were enforced from 1st Jan., 2018 to include display of certain mandatory declarations by the suppliers on e-commerce platforms, to increase the font size for making declarations on pre-packaged commodities, to bring Medical devices which are declared as drugs, under the purview of these rules etc.
- On the representations of Industries, permission was given for making declarations with increased font size by affixing sticker or by stamping or online printing or using a tag upto 31.3.2018. Further, Controllers of Legal Metrology of State Governments have been asked not to take coercive action upto 28.2.2018 for font size.

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

Sl. No.	Indices	Inflation Rate (in %)		
		December, 2017 (Provisional)	November, 2017	December, 2016 (Final)
1	Wholesale Price Index # (Annual)	3.58	3.93	2.10
2	Wholesale Price Index # (Food Articles)	4.72	6.06	0.07
3	Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers)	4.00	3.97	2.23
4	Consumer Price Index (Combined)*	5.21	4.48	3.41
5	Consumer Price Index (Consumer Food Price Index)*	4.96	4.35	1.37

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

7. Price trends of Essential Commodities for the month of January, 2018 over December, 2017 for average retail prices 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 101 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 January, 2018 over December, 2017 are given below:-

All India monthly Average Retail Prices of Essential Commodities

(` Rs. /Kg)				
Sl.No.	Commodity	January, 2018 (latest)	December, 2017 (previous)	Difference (In Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(3)	(5)
1	Rice	30	30	0
2	Wheat	24	24	0
3	Atta	26	26	0
4	Gram Dal	74	77	-3
5	Tur Dal	74	75	-1
6	Urad Dal	76	78	-2
7	Moong Dal	74	74	0
8	Masoor Dal	63	63	0
9	Sugar	42	43	-1
10	Milk	42	42	0
11	Groundnut Oil	127	127	0
12	Mustard Oil	107	107	0
13	Vanaspati	79	79	0
14	Soya oil	88	87	1
15	Sunflower Oil	94	94	0
16	Palm Oil	73	73	0
17	Gur	45	45	0
18	Tea loose	207	205	2
19	Salt Pack	15	15	0
20	Potato	15	16	-1
21	Onion	43	43	0
22	Tomato	23	37	-14

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
275	230

6. Status of Public Grievances:

No of Public Grievances redressed during the month of January, 2018	No of Public Grievances pending at the end of January, 2018
575	432

7. 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. These prices are reported by State Civil Supplies Departments on daily basis mainly through online. These prices are disseminated through the Department website immediately. Because of the online price reporting, the time taken to report and for 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.
