

F.NoT-10/10/2019-PMC Section
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Finance
Department of Consumer affairs
Price Monitoring Division

Room no. 374, H- Wing
KrishiBhawan
New Delhi -110001
Dated- 19th August 2021

To

The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries (Food and Civil Supplies Department) : All States/ UTs


Subject: Operational Guidelines of 'Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell' for the implementation period April 2021 to March 2026.

Sir/Madam

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) monitors the daily retail and wholesale price of identified essential food items through daily retail and wholesale prices reported by the Price Reporting Centres under the Consumer Affairs, Food & Civil Supply Department in the States and UTs. Financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid is provided to the States/UTs for the Price Reporting Centres under the scheme - Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell. The scheme has been approved for continuation during the 15th Finance Commission period with certain modifications in the items eligible for the financial assistance. Hence, the scheme guidelines has also been revised, accordingly.

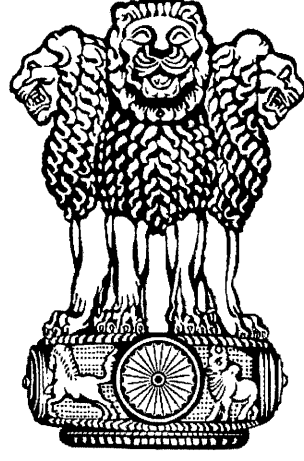
The revised guidelines, Operational Guidelines of Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell enclosed. While proposals for financial assistance already received by the Department are being examined as per the existing guidelines, States/UTs are requested to henceforth, send their proposals as per the new guidelines.

Encl: As above


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Copy to:

1. PPS to Secretary (DoCA)
2. PS to EA (DoCA)
3. Technical Director (NIC) with a request to upload these guidelines on the website of DoCA.



सत्यमेव जयते

Operational Guidelines of Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell

Government of India

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Department of Consumer Affairs,

Krishi Bhawan

New Delhi

August, 2021

Introduction

1.1 The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) monitors the daily retail and wholesale price of identified essential food items from price monitoring centers located across the country. For making the process robust, a scheme, 'Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell' (SPMC) aimed at fortifying the price collection and monitoring system in the Centre as well as in the States/ UTs, through support for infrastructure and capacity building, was initiated during the Twelfth Five Year Plan. The scheme has been approved for continuation till 2025-26 as a project.

1.2 The Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) of Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) was set up in 1998 for regular monitoring of prices of essential commodities and provide assistance in policy recommendations with respect to the price and availability of essential commodities. From an initial coverage of 14 items for which prices were collected from just 18 centers, the price monitoring mechanism has now expanded to cover 22 essential food items (**Annex-I**) and 167 price collection centers (**Annex-II**) across the country. Currently, prices of 22 commodities are collected from the 167 centers through a Mobile App.

1.3 A project/scheme for 'Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell' (SPMC) was introduced in the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) and is in implementation w.e.f 1st April, 2014. The operational Guidelines of 'Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell' has been modified for the implementation period start from April 2021 to March 2026.

2. Objective

2.1 The basic objective of the SPMC is to ensure streamlining of the process of price data reporting, monitoring and analysis of essential food commodities. It has two important components i.e. (a) Strengthening PMC at the States/UTs; and (b) Strengthening of PMC at Centre

2.2 The SPMC, inter alia, provides grants-in-aid to the States/UTs for remuneration of Data Entry Operator (DEO), capacity building and infrastructural support for the price reporting centers.

2.3 With technological advancement and operationalization of Mobile App for price reporting, the list of admissible items for assistance under SPMC have been modified. As per the modified guidelines States/UTs are eligible for Grant-in aid for remuneration of Data Entry Operator, Smart Phone, Sim Card/ Data Card and for conducting training/ Seminar/Workshop for better price reporting and monitoring.

3. Grants to States/UTs under Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell

3.1 Admissible items and norms of assistance: As per the modified guidelines following items are admissible for assistance under SPMC

Item / Component	Norms /rate of assistance (in Rs.)	Periodicity of assistance
1	2	3
1) Remuneration of contractual employee per center	Rs 288000 @ 24000 PM/Per DEO	Annual
2)Smart phone per center	Rs.10,000	2 years
3)Sim card / data card per center	Rs.6,000	Annual
4) Conducting Training /Workshop/Seminar/Conference in State/UT	Rs.1,00,000	Annual

- i. States/UTs shall submit proposals for financial assistance as per the admissible component mentioned above at para 3.1 of the guidelines.
- ii. Centers which were sanctioned funds for hand held device during the past two years will become eligible for smartphone on completion of 2 years.

- iii. For new center as well as for existing centers, the State Government/ UT Administration shall hereafter submit proposal for financial assistance as per the eligible items for the specified periodicity.
- iv. States/UTs shall submit their plan and proposal for conducting training programme/ Workshop/Seminar/ Conference.

3.2 Term and Conditions for release of Grants to State/UTs:

- a. Grants will be released only through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS)
- b. The grant for each component shall be released by Department of Consumer Affairs after receipt of the proposal from States/UTs, complete in all respects as per the guidelines, and the same is approved by the Competent Authority.
- c. Smart phone and sim-card will be procured by the State/UT Government as per the prescribed procedure in the State/UT.
- d. The gadget(s) acquired with grants under the scheme shall be maintained during the prescribed periodicity and subsequently disposed off by the States/UTs without prior approval of DoCA.
- e. The proposal for grant of recurring expenditure (Remuneration of the contractual employee and sim card) for each center for next financial year shall preferably be submitted to DoCA during December- February every year.
- f. States/UTs shall submit the Utilization Certificate (UC) to Department of Consumer Affairs with in the stipulated period as per GFR 2017. The States/UTs need to submit UCs of the fund released during a Financial Year (FY) within 12 month period after closer of that FY.
- g. While submitting the Grant in aid proposal State/UT need to submit the Financial Progress Certificate (FPC) in the format attached at **annexure-III**.

- h. Subsequent grants under the scheme shall be provided after receipt of UC and Financial Progress Certificate (FPC) from the States/UTs for previous grants released under the Scheme.
- i. Funds shall be utilized only for the purposes for which these funds have been released.
- j. States/UTs shall mandatorily deploy a dedicated Data entry operator per center to send the daily report of price of essential commodities.

3.3 Competent authority for approval of new centers:

Economic Adviser, D/o Consumer Affairs is the competent authority for approval of establishment of new price reporting centers in the States/UTs. The in- principle approved center is required to send daily retail and wholesale prices consistently for atleast 10 day in the specific format (**at annexure -IV**) to ensure the consistency, regularity and conformity. Thereafter, in-principle approved center shall be eligible for formal price reporting center and financial assistance.

4. Strengthening of PMC at Center: The details of the items/components covered under the Strengthening of PMC at Center are as below

1. Conducting Zonal Workshop/ Seminar/ Conference/ Training by PMC, DoCA
2. Commissioning of studies.
3. Strengthening of PMC at the Center/NIC;

5. Budget Allocations: An allocation of Rs. 2.00 crore has been made in Budget Estimate 2021-21 (BE) for 'Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell' Demand no 14 of Department of Consumer Affairs

6. Monitoring of Price Reporting Centres: Officers of the Department of Consumer Affairs shall visit the Price Reporting Centres in the States/UTs on need basis to assess the functioning of the Price Reporting Centres in States / UTs.

Annexure I

Essential Commodities							
Total No. of Commodities : 22							
Grains & Pulses		Edible Oils (Packed)		Vegetables		Others	
Sl. No	Commodity	Sl. No	Commodity	Sl. No	Commodity	Sl. No	Commodity
1	Rice (Loose)	1	Groundnut Oil (Packed)	1	Potato	1	Sugar
2	Wheat (loose)	2	Mustard Oil (Packed)	2	Onion	2	Gur
3	Atta (Wheat)-Loose	3	Vanaspati (Packed)	3	Tomato	3	Milk @
4	Gram Dal (loose)	4	Soya Oil (Packed)			4	Tea Loose
5	Tur/Arhar Dal (loose)	5	Sunflower Oil (Packed)			5	Salt Pack (Iodised)
6	Urad Dal (loose)	6	Palm Oil (Packed)				
7	Moong Dal (loose)						
8	Masoor Dal (loose)						

Price Reporting Centers									
Total No. of Centers : 167									
North Zone		West Zone		East Zone		North-East Zone		South Zone	
Sl.No	Centers	Sl.No	Centers	Sl.No	Centers	Sl.No	Centers	Sl.No	Centers
1	CHANDIGARH	1	RAIPUR	1	PATNA	1	ITANAGAR	1	PORT BLAIR
2	DELHI	2	DURG	2	BHAGALPUR	2	GUWAHATI	2	MAYABUNDER
3	HISAR	3	AMBIKAPUR	3	PURNIA	3	IMPHAL	3	VIJAYWADA
4	KARNAL	4	BILASPUR-CG	4	DARBHANGA	4	SHILLONG	4	VISAKHAPATNAM
5	PANCHKULA	5	JAGDALPUR	5	GAYA	5	TURA	5	KURNOOL
6	GURGAON	6	DANTEWADA	6	MUZZAFARPUR	6	JOWAI	6	TIRUPATHI
7	SHIMLA	7	PANAJI	7	SARAN	7	AIZAWL	7	BENGALURU
8	MANDI	8	AHMEDABAD	8	MUNGER	8	DIMAPUR	8	DHARWAD
9	DHARAMSHALA	9	RAJKOT	9	SAHARSA	9	GANGTOK	9	MANGALORE
10	SOLAN	10	SURAT	10	MADHUBANI	10	AGARTALA	10	MYSORE
11	UNA	11	BHUJ	11	ROHTAS (SASARAM)			11	BENGALURU (EAST RANGE)
12	BILASPUR-HP	12	SELAMBA	12	MOTIHARI			12	BELAGAVI
13	CHAMBA	13	WAGHAI	13	SAMASTIPUR			13	KALABURAGI
14	SRINAGAR	14	BODELI	14	KATI HAR			14	TUMAKURU
15	JAMMU	15	VAPI	15	ARARIA			15	BELLARY
16	POONCH	16	BHOPAL	16	NAWADA			16	DHAVANAGERE
17	KUPWARA	17	INDORE	17	KHAGARIA			17	SHIVAMOGGA
18	AMRITSAR	18	GWALIOR	18	RANCHI			18	VIJAYAPUR
19	LUDHIANA	19	JABALPUR	19	GUMLA			19	T.PURAM
20	BATHINDA	20	REWA	20	SAHIBGANJ			20	ERNAKULAM
21	LUCKNOW	21	SAGAR	21	BOKARO			21	KOZHICODE
22	KANPUR	22	JHABUA	22	LOHARDAGA			22	THRISSUR
23	VARANASI	23	HOSHANGABAD	23	SIMDEGA			23	PALAKKAD
24	AGRA	24	SHAHDOL	24	DHANBAD			24	WAYANAD
25	JHANSI	25	UJJAIN	25	JAMSHEDPUR (EAST SINGBHUM)			25	PUDUCHERRY
26	MEERUT	26	MORENA	26	BHUBANESHWAR			26	CHENNAI
27	ALLAHABAD	27	MUMBAI	27	CUTTACK			27	DINDIGUL
28	GORAKHPUR	28	NAGPUR	28	SAMBALPUR			28	THIRUCHIRAPALLI
29	SAHARANPUR	29	PUNE	29	ROURKELA			29	COIMBATORE
30	BAREILLY	30	NASHIK	30	BERHAMPUR			30	TIRUNELVELI
31	AYODHYA	31	MANGAON- RAIGAD	31	JEYPORE			31	CUDDALORE
32	MORADABAD	32	JAIPUR	32	BALASORE			32	DHARMAPURI
33	ALIGARH	33	JODHPUR	33	BARIPADA			33	VELLORE
34	MIRZAPUR (VINDHYANCHAL)	34	KOTA	34	BALANGIR			34	RAMANATHAPURAM
35	DEHRADUN	35	UDAIPUR	35	KOLKATA			35	HYDERABAD
36	HALDWANI	36	BHARATPUR	36	SILIGURI			36	KARIMNAGAR
37	RUDRAPUR	37	AJMER	37	PURULIA			37	WARANGAL
38	HARIDWAR	38	BIKANER	38	KHARAGPUR			38	ADILABAD
				39	RAMPURHAT			39	SURYAPET
				40	MALDA			40	JADCHERLA
				41	RAIGANJ				

Financial Progress Certificate (FPC) for the grant-in aid for price reporting centres under the scheme of 'Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell'

Name of State/UT:-

Total No. of Price Reporting Centers:

Financial assistance for which progress certificate is furnished.				
Sanction. No	Date	Year	Amount	Expenditure incurred as on.....

Certified that the grant-in aid has been utilized/proposed to be utilized for the purpose for which these have been provided and if any deviation is observed, the same will be intimated.

Signature with seal of
DS/Director (D/o Food & Public Distribution)

Countersigned:
Signature with seal of the Secretary
(D/o Food & Public Distribution)

Annexure-IV

Format for in- principle approved center to send daily retail and wholesale prices of essential commodities

NAME OF STATE..... NAME OF CENTRE..... DATE.....

DETAILS OF WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES/VARIETY/BRAND/MARKETS OF SELECT ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

Name of Data Entry Operator/Price Collector- _____

Mobile No. _____

Email id. _____

PERFORMA FOR PRICE COLLECTION

S.No.	Commodity	Variety & Brand (Same for Wholesale and Retail)	WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES		RETAIL MARKET PRICES						Retail Price Average (Rs./Kg.) (HIG+MIG+LIG)/3
			Price (Rs./Qtl.)	Market with Shop Name	HIG		MIG		LIG		
					Price (Rs./Kg.)	Market with Shop Name	Price (Rs./Kg.)	Market with Shop Name	Price (Rs./Kg.)	Market with Shop Name	
1	Rice (Loose)										
2	Wheat (Loose)										
3	Atta (Wheat)(Loose)										
4	Gram Dal (Loose)										
5	Tur/Arhar Dal(Loose)										
6	Urad Dal(Split (washed, Dhuli)(Loose)										
7	Moong Dal(Split washed, Dhuli)(loose)										
8	Masoor Dal(Split washed, Dhuli)(loose)										
9	Groundnut Oil (Packed)										
10	Mustard Oil(Packed)										
11	Vanaspati Oil(Packed)										
12	Soya Oil(Packed)										
13	Sunflower Oil(Packed)										
14	Palm Oil(Packed)										
15	Potato										
16	Onion										
17	Tomato										
18	Sugar (Loose)										
19	Gur (Loose)										
20	Milk* (Liquid)										
21	Tea (Loose)										
22	Salt (Packed)										

* -Rs./ltr in Retail and Rs./100 Ltr in Wholesale

HIG-High Income Group, **MIG**-Medium Income Group, **LIG** – Low Income Group

In case of edible oils, please ensure the quantity in liters or kilograms and write accordingly.