

**Department of Consumer Affairs operate following schemes/Guidelines:**

**A. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES OF STRENGTHENING OF PRICE MONITORING CELL**

**1. 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 wholesale prices of 22 essential commodities and retail prices of 16 additional commodities (Annex-I) and 555 price collection centers across the country

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**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Item/ Component</b>	<b>Norms /rate of assistance (in Rs. )</b>	<b>Periodicity of assistance</b>
<b>1</b>	Remuneration of contractual employee per center	Rs 2,88,000 @ 24000 PM/Per DEO	Annual
<b>2</b>	Smart phone per center	Rs.10,000	2 years
<b>3</b>	Sim card / data card per center	Rs.6,000	Annual
<b>4</b>	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 within 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-II**.
- 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 at least 10 day in the specific format 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 : 38

Cereals	Pulses & Products	Edible Oils & Fats	Vegetables	Animal Products	Spices	Fruits	Others
1. Rice	1. Gram Dal	1. Groundnut Oil	1. Potato	1. Milk	1. Black Pepper	1. Banana	1. Sugar
2. Wheat	2. Tur/Arhar Dal	2. Mustard Oil	2. Onion	2. Egg	2. Coriander		2. Gur
3. Atta	3. Urad Dal	3. Vanaspati Oil	3. Tomato		3. Cumin Seed		3. Tea
4. Bajra	4. Moong Dal	4. Soya Oil	4. Brinjal		4. Red Chilli		4. Salt
5. Jowar	5. Masoor Dal	5. Sunflower Oil			5. Turmeric		
6. Ragi	6. Besan	6. Palm Oil					
7. Maida		7. Desi Ghee					
8. Suji		8. Butter					

**Annexure-II**

**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.**

<b>Sanction. No as on</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Expenditure incurred</b>
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*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) Signature with seal of the Secretary**

**Countersigned:**

**(D/o Food & Public Distribution)**

N ame

*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.*

