

MOST IMMEDIATE

**No. N-22/2/2021-P&C
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
(Department of Consumer Affairs)**

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated 18th February, 2021

Subject: - Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for the month January, 2021 in respect of Department of Consumer Affairs – regarding.

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith as Annexure to this letter, the unclassified portion of the Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for the month of January, 2021 in respect of Department of Consumer Affairs for kind information.



(Jasbir Tiwari)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Ph. No. 23381233

To

Copy with enclosures, forwarded to through email

1. All Members of Council of Ministers.
2. PIB/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. Chairmen, 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.
9. Assistant Director Official Language of the Department.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Monthly Summary for the month of January, 2021.

Important decisions/achievement during the month of January, 2021:

1. Price Monitoring Scheme(PMS) Software Application for Price Collection:

- 1.1 The PMS Mobile App wherein all the shops from where daily price data is uploaded are geo-tagged, has been operationalized from January 1, 2021. The objective is to ensure accurate reporting and improved data quality. All the State/UT Price Reporting Centres have been imparted training on the Mobile App. Out of 122 Price Reporting Centres, 85 have already started reporting prices on the Mobile Application, while the remaining centres are reporting on the portal.
- 1.2 The services of FCI and NAFED are being used to assess and validate the retail prices reported by the Price Reporting Centres (PRCs). FCI had identified 162 locations and NAFED,17 locations, for this purpose; training to the concerned personnel has been imparted on the methodology of price reporting and use of PMS Mobile App.As on February 8, 2021, reports were received from 60 locations of FCI and 12 locations of NAFED. Comparison of the prices reported by these centres with that of the prices reported by the PRCs in States/UTs is undertaken daily.

2. Third party agencies allowed to stamp weights and measures:

- 2.1 Under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, the verification and stamping of weights and measures used in transaction or in consumer protection is mandatory. Due to lack of infrastructural facilities and manpower in States/UTs, business enterprises have been facing difficulty in getting the weights and measures verified and stamped. In order to ease the compliance burden, it has been decided to allow third-party agencies under the Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013 and a notification has been issued to the effect that the verification and stamping of weights and measures may also be done by the NABL/ ISO:IEC 17025:2017 accredited Laboratories.

3. Activities Undertaken for Consumer Protection:

- 3.1 Under the Legal Metrology Rules, it is necessary to declare the country of origin for all imported goods.It was brought to the notice of the Department that some of the e-commerce entities are not displaying the mandatory declarations on digital networks, as required under the said Rules.Accordingly, notices were issued to 21 e-commerce entities/ companies in January 2021 (the total number of e-

commerce entities who have been issued notices in the last 4 months is 67) and due process was followed regarding compounding of offence thereafter.

3.2 The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) regularly checks/monitors internet, websites, newspapers, magazines etc. for any false claims or misleading advertisements etc. (The total number of notices issued by so far by CCPA is 26). CCPA had observed that numerous manufacturers/commercial establishments have released misleading advertisements through the medium of print and electronic media, for promoting consumer products with unsubstantiated claims of boosting immunity, killing 99.99% germs, virus etc. In this connection, it issued 8 show cause notices during January, 2021 to different corporate houses and companies for seeking their response whereafter appropriate action as per the Act, would be taken.

4 Important Meeting held during the month:

- 4.1 A Meetings of the CoS was held on 28.01.2021 regarding "Review of Prices of Essential Commodities".
- 4.2 A webinar with Industry Associations of Service Sector was held on 08 January 2021. In the webinar, discussions were held on role of industry in standardization and importance of industry participation.
- 4.3 BIS organized a number of webinars with Industry Associations from automobile, HVAC, pumps and motors, electro technical, petrochemicals, chemicals, cosmetics, plastics and rubber & rubber products sectors to discuss the industry perspective on Constraints in participation in standardization work & in implementation of standards, Standardization needs & Gap areas, Expectations from BIS and Standardization Cells.
- 4.4 BIS in association with Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi and KLS Gogte Institute of Technology, Belagavi organized a webinar on 'BIS standards for Micro-Irrigation' on 21 January 2021.
- 4.5 A webinar on toy manufacturers was conducted by BIS, virtually on 08 January 2021. During the meeting, queries of toys manufacturers regarding toys standards, certification, testing etc. were taken up.