


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 16th September, 2019

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


16-09-2019
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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 **August, 2019**.

1. Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

The Consumer Protection Bill 2019 was passed by Lok Sabha on 30.07.2019 and by Rajya Sabha on 06.08.2019. After assent of Hon'ble President, the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 was published in the official gazette on 09.08.2019.

1.2 Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & PD held a meeting on 27.08.2019 with Members of Parliament, who participated in the debate in both Houses during passing of the Bill to elicit suggestions / views for making rules under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

2. Pulses and Onion Buffer Stock:

2.1 A buffer stock of 16 LMT of pulses has been built by transfer from Price Support Scheme (PSS) of DACFW. A buffer stock of 56,689 MT onion has also been created through procurement in Maharashtra & Gujarat, out of which 5,658 MT was disposed during the month of August, 2019. The buffer ensures reasonability of prices and adequate availability and discourages hoarding by unscrupulous traders.

2.2 Three Weekly Review Meetings on management of buffer stock under PSF were held during the month of August, 2019. Supply of pulses to Army and disposal of onion from buffer stock were also reviewed in these meetings. Also, two meetings with stakeholders including representative from Delhi APMC, Delhi Admn, NAFED, SAFAL and e-retailers were held to discuss marketing and retailing of Onion, Tomatoes and Pulses in Delhi NCR.

2.3 A meeting of Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution to review the price and availability of essential items was held on 26.08.2019 with DACFW, DFPD and DoC.3.

3. Exempting purchases under contract farming from stock limits:

3.1 An Order has been passed under the Essential Commodities Act as per which, stock limit shall not apply to a contract farming purchaser of any agricultural produce registered under any State Act made in this behalf, subject to the overall ceiling of registered quality. This will lead to –

- Increased investment and technology flow in farming sector,
- Assured income to farmers,
- Increased investment in supply chain activities – warehousing, cold storage and cold chain, transportation.

3.2 5th National Consultation Meeting of Minister of States/UTs in-charge of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs was held on 03.09.2019 to deliberate on the issues concerning availability and prices of essential commodities, consumer empowerment, one nation one ration card, etc.

4. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

4.1 Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been elected to the ISO Technical Management Board (TMB), the apex governance Body of ISO for technical matters for the term 2020-2022.

4.2 An ambitious Project for promotion of use of National Building Code of India (NBC) 2016 in all States and UTs of India has been undertaken by BIS. It involves comprehensive review of rules and regulations governing land development and building construction and preparing draft regulations which are aligned with provisions in NBC 2016, for use by the States and UTs.

4.3 A **National Laboratory Directory** has been launched by BIS containing data of more than 4000 laboratories with location and product-wise testing facility. Categorisation of labs is on the basis of ISO 17025 accreditation and approval by various regulators, namely, BIS, FSSAI, EIC, APEDA, CPCB.

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

5.1 Govt issued order u/s 123 of the MSCS Act, 2002 for supersession of the Board of NCCF and appointment of Administrator on 24.07.2018. The Single Judge in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi stayed implementation of the same on 31.07.2018. Govt. filed LPA before the Division Bench. Based on order of Division Bench, Govt filed an application before the Single Judge who by order dated 10.05.2019 constituted an interim Board consisting of Petitioner No. 1 (Dr. Bijender Singh, Ex-Chairman, NCCF), Sh. Anil Bahuguna, Jt.Secy, CA (who is appointed as MD by the Central Government) and Justice (Retd) Indermeet Kaur as Chairman of the interim Board. The matter was discussed with the Ld. ASG and based on his advice, an application has been filed in the Hon'ble High Court for having 2 retired Secretaries to Govt. of India on the interim Board instead of Dr. Bijender Singh and the MD, NCCF (who is a non-voting member of the Board). Hon'ble Court vide its order dated 30.08.2019 has acceded to the request made by the Govt.

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

Sr. No.	Indices	Inflation Rate (in %)		
		July, 2019 (Provisional)	June, 2019 (Provisional)	July, 2018 (Final)
1	Wholesale Price# Index (Annual)	1.08	2.02	5.27
2	Wholesale Price Index# (Food Articles)	6.15	6.98	-2.1
3	Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers)	5.98	8.59	5.61
4	Consumer Price Index (Combined)*	3.15	3.18	4.17
5	Consumer Price Index (Consumer Food Price Index)*	2.36	2.25	1.30

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

7. Price trends for the month of August, 2019 over July, 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**.
8. 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 August, 2019 over July, 2019 are given below:-

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

Sl. No.	Commodity	August, 2019 (latest)	July, 2019 (previous) month)	Difference (In Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Rice	32	32	0
2	Wheat	27	27	0
3	Atta	29	28	1
4	Gram Dal	66	66	0
5	Tur Dal	85	84	1
6	Urad Dal	75	75	0
7	Moong Dal	82	82	0
8	Masoor Dal	63	63	0
9	Sugar	39	39	0
10	Milk	44	43	1
11	Groundnut Oil	130	130	0
12	Mustard Oil	109	110	-1
13	Vanaspati	79	79	0
14	Soya oil	92	92	0
15	Sunflower Oil	100	100	0
16	Palm Oil	75	75	0
17	Gur	45	44	1
18	Tea loose	212	212	0
19	Salt Pack	15	15	0
20	Potato	19	19	0
21	Onion	25	21	4
22	Tomato	39	37	2

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments.

ANNEXURE II

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
178	163

6. Status of Public Grievances

No of Public Grievances redressed during the month of August, 2019	No of Public Grievances pending at the end of August, 2019
878	877

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

Total dockets registered on National Consumer Helpline (NCH) during the month of August, 2019.	Total dockets closed at the end of August, 2019.
75576	49360

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 centers across the country. These prices are reported by State Civil Supplies Departments on daily basis mainly through online portal. These prices are being disseminated through the Department's website immediately. Because of the online price reporting, the time taken for reporting and disseminating is less. As per instructions / guidelines even other routine office work is being shifted on line to reduce delays and for more efficient results.
