


MOST IMMEDIATE

**F.No. R-11016/01/2020-P&C
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs**

**Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 14th April, 2020**

Sub: Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for the month of March, 2020 in respect of Department of Consumer Affairs- Reg.

Please find enclosed as Annexure to this letter, the unclassified portion of the monthly summary for the Cabinet for the month of **March, 2020** in respect of the Department of Consumer Affairs, for kind information. Hindi version will follow.


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Copy with enclosures, forwarded through e-mail to

1. All members of the Council of Ministers
2. PIO/Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
3. Secretary to Vice-President
4. Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi
5. Secretaries to the Govt. of India (As per list)
6. Chairman, Union Public Service Commission, Dholpur House, New Delhi.
7. Deputy Chairman, NITI Aayog, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. Tech. Director, NIC for uploading on the website of the Department.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

The following are the important activities of Department of Consumer Affairs during the month of **March, 2020**.

1. Essential Commodities Act.

The Department took various measures under the EC Act to combating spread of COVID 19 and reducing the hardship to consumers. Such measures included:

- 1.1 Adding masks (2ply & 3ply surgical masks, N95 masks) & hand sanitizers in the list of Essential Commodity for the period upto 30.06.2020 vide Notification No. S.O.1087 (E) dated 13/03/2020.
- 1.2 Regulating the prices of alcohol used in manufacturing hand sanitizers vide Notification No. S.O.1169 (E) dated 19/03/2020.
- 1.3 Fixing prices of masks (2ply & 3ply), Melt Blown non-Woven Fabric and hand sanitizers vide Notification No. S.O.1197 (E) dated 21/03/2020.
- 1.4 All States/UTs requested to take action to stop hoarding and black marketing of masks and sanitizers vide D.O. letter dated 13.3.2020.
- 1.5 An Emergency meeting held on 17.03.2020 to discuss on measures including fixation of prices of masks, sanitizers etc. under the EC Act to prevent spread of Corona Virus (COVID-19).
- 1.6 An Emergency review meeting held on 20.03.2020 to monitor the measures taken to prevent the spread of Corona Virus.
- 1.7 An Emergency meeting was held on 24.03.2020 on availability of masks.

2. Other Measures related to COVID-19

- 2.1 All Controllers of Legal Metrology of States/UTs were requested to take necessary action to prevent overcharging of masks, sanitizers etc to ensure its availability and affordability to health service providers and consumers at large, vide letter dated 12.3.2020
- 2.2 A Control Room has been set up in the Department to handle issues related to day-to-day supply of essential items and daily necessities.
- 2.3 Advisory to all States/UTs on 20.3.2020 to exempt e-commerce operators (warehousing & logistics facilities and services), wholesaler, their vendors and third party delivery partners from any type of prohibitory orders.
- 2.4 A dedicated website on COVID-19 related matters is functional at jagorahakjago.gov.in/covid19/.

3. Pulses and Onion Buffer Stock:

- 3.1 Video Conference with ICAR-CIPHET was held during the month to review progress of the Study on "Development of protocols for shelf life, safe storage, milling out-turn and indicative norms for procurement of major pulses".

- 3.2 47th meeting of the re-constituted PSFMC was held during the month on 11.03.2020 wherein the Committee inter-alia ratified decision to procure 1 LMT Tur each from Telangana and Karnataka under PSF and recommended building buffer of 50,000 MT of onions by NAFED with due consideration w.r.t. storage after irradiation and in scientific storage, to the extent feasible, for distribution during lean season.
- 3.3 Two meetings of the CoS were held during the month on 03.03.2020 and 23.03.2020 to review prices of essential commodities.
- 3.4 Completed the disposal of 35,857 MT of imported onions under PSF by end of the month. Dispatches were arranged to Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Uttrakhand, Himachal Pradesh, West Bangal, Goa etc. Further, Disposal was also undertaken through auction. Mother Dairy, Kendriya Bhandar and NAFED were advised to retail imported onion to cool down their prices.
- 3.5 Meeting of IMC to review prices of essential commodities was held during the month.
- 3.6 The EFC meeting held on 28.03.2020, considered and approved proposal under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package as a part of Economic Response to COVID-19 to ameliorate the hardships faced by the poor due to economic disruption caused by COVID-19. The said package inter-alia, included provision of one kg per family, of pulses like moong, toor chana, urad for the next three months to ensure adequate availability of protein to the poor. In view of urgency of situation, DoCA obtained approval under Rule 12 for the proposal in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

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

Sr. No.	Indices	Inflation Rate (in %)		
		February, 2020 (Provisional)	January, 2020 (Provisional)	February, 2019 (Final)
1	Wholesale Price# Index(Annual)	2.26	3.10	2.93
2	Wholesale Price Index#(Food Articles)	7.79	11.51	4.21
3	Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers)	6.84	7.49	6.97
4	Consumer Price Index (Gen.)(Combined)*	6.58	7.59	2.57
5	Consumer Price Index (Consumer Food Price Index)*	10.81	13.63	-0.73

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

5. Price trends for the month of March, 2020 over February, 2020 for all India monthly average retail prices from 114 centre across the country as reported by the respective Civil Supplies Departments of States/UTs are given at **Annexure-I**.
6. Shri M.K. Semwal, (IRSEE: 1992) has joined as Managing Director of National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India (NCCF).
7. 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 114 centres across the country as reported by the respective Civil Supplies Departments of State Government/UTs are compiled and average retail prices for the month of March, 2020 over February, 2020 are given below:-

All India monthly Average Retail Prices of Essential Commodities (₹/kg)

Sl.No.	Commodity	March, 2020 (latest)	February, 2020 (previous month)	Difference (In ₹)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Rice	33	34	-1
2	Wheat	29	29	0
3	Atta	30	30	0
4	Gram Dal	65	66	-1
5	Tur Dal	87	87	0
6	Urad Dal	97	99	-2
7	Moong Dal	99	96	3
8	Masoor Dal	67	68	-1
9	Sugar	39	39	0
10	Milk(per ltr)	46	45	1
11	Groundnut Oil	138	137	1
12	Mustard Oil	117	118	-1
13	Vanaspati	88	89	-1
14	Soya oil	98	99	-1
15	Sunflower Oil	106	108	-2
16	Palm Oil	87	90	-3
17	Gur	46	46	0
18	Tea loose	217	218	-1
19	Salt Pack	16	16	0
20	Potato	23	23	0
21	Onion	31	39	-8
22	Tomato	21	22	-1

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:

6.	Total No. of files 193	Total No. of e-files 164
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Status of Public Grievances:

No of Public Grievances redressed during the month of March, 2020	No of Public Grievances pending at the end of March, 2020
659	406

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

Total dockets registered on National Consumer Helpline (NCH) during the month of March, 2020	Total dockets closed at the end of March, 2020
41359	30092

8. Minimum Government, Maximum Governance:

Price Monitoring Division(PMD) of the Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the retail and wholesale prices of 22 essential commodities on daily basis from 114 centers across the country. These prices are reported by State Civil Supplies Departments on daily basis mainly through online portal enabling their dissemination through the Department's website on real time-time basis. As per instructions/guidelines even other routine office work is being shifted online to reduce delays and for more efficient results.
