

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 18th November, 2020

Subject: - Monthly Summary for the Cabinet for the month of October, 2020 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 October, 2020 in respect of Department of Consumer Affairs for kind information.


(Jasbir Tiwari)

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To

Copy with enclosures, forwarded to: through e-mail

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. 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.
9. Assistant Director Official Language of the Department.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Monthly Summary for the month of October, 2020.

1. Important policy decisions taken during the month of October, 2020:

- i) The average retail price of Onion on October 21 was found to have breached the price trigger as per the formula notified in the amended EC Act, hence the stock limits on Onion were imposed with effect from October 23, 2020. It was notified that the stock limit for wholesalers would be 25 MT and for retailers, 2 MT. Thereafter, taking into account the genuine concerns of the farmers, an advisory was issued to all States suggesting that three days' time may be allowed from the date of purchase in the mandi for activities like packaging, grading, etc when taking action with regard to violation of stock limit.
- ii) In order to cool the prices of Potato, a policy decision of allowing import up to 10 LMT at reduced duty of 10% up till January 2021 was taken. With regard to pulses, the proposal for offering Moong, Urad and Tur from the buffer stock at MSP or DRP (whichever is lower) was finalized and there was immediate response from Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Maharashtra. It is expected that as the scheme stabilizes, more States would come forward and a good supply chain system would be put into place leading to higher impact in terms of cooling of prices.
- iii) Import quota of 4 LMT for Tur was extended till December 31, 2020. In the case of Masur, it was recommended that the duty on Masur be reduced to 10% till December 31, 2020.

2. Major achievements during the month

- i) Under the extended Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY-II), 1 kg whole Chana is to be distributed free of cost to each beneficiary household per month from July to November 2020. Against the total allocation of 9.44 Lakh MT pulses, 8.05 LMT was dispatched to States / UTs till the end of the month and 4.66 LMT was distributed to beneficiary households by the State Governments / UTs.
- ii) Against the buffer stock of 1 LMT onion procured from Rabi 2020 crop under PSF, about 36,488 MT of onion was disposed of through OMS and retail supplies to State Governments.
- iii) The status of prices was closely monitored especially with regard to Onion, Potato and pulses. The factual position was presented at the Inter-Ministerial Committee meetings and in the meetings of Committee of Secretaries, on the basis of which requisite policy decisions were taken with the approval of the Group of Ministers.

- iv) During the month of October 2020, 15 new standards were formulated and 15 standards were revised.
- v) 685 new licences were granted to domestic manufacturers. In addition, 3016 licences of domestic manufacturers and 45 licences of foreign manufacturers were renewed.
- vi) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) vide its order dated 01/10/2020 has included seven IT & Electronics products to the Schedule of the "Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012.

3. Important Meetings held during the month:

- i) Two Meetings of the CoS were held on 09.10.2020 and 30.10.2020 regarding "Review of Prices of Essential Commodities".
- ii) BIS organized the first meeting of Expert Committee comprising of Officials from NITI Aayog, DoCA, UGC, QCI & IITs on 'Integration of standards with the curriculum of technical education' on 08 October 2020.