

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING 2016

A National Consultation Meeting of Ministers of States/UTs, in-charge of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs was held on 21.5.2016 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & PD.

2. Secretary (CA), while welcoming the dignitaries present in the Meeting, mentioned that this is the third consecutive Consultation Meeting being held since the present Government assumed office in 2014. He proposed to deliberate on the availability of essential food items on the excellent benchmark set on two previous occasions, to the consumers at reasonable prices across the country apart from the issues that drive the demand and supply of essential commodities to enable consumers to make informed choices. He mentioned that the next six months are very critical for maintaining stability of prices, particularly pulses and off late sugar, which are going to be volatile. The government is aware that the inflation hits lower strata of the society the most. Prices of 22 essential food commodities are being monitored on daily basis by the Price Monitoring Cell under the Department of Consumer Affairs. An Inter-Ministerial Group meets on weekly basis which coordinates actions across the Ministries. On enforcement matters, a Group under chairmanship of Secretary (CA) meets twice a month to discuss enforcement actions against hoarding, black-marketing, cartelling, speculation and likewise. Action is also being taken on various fronts as market intervention through Price Stabilization Fund and strengthening action under the EC Act and PBMMSEC Act. He urged administration of States to come on front on these issues.

3. Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (Guest of Honour), while addressing the delegates, appreciated the efforts made by Hon'ble Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & PD on the food security etc. which has now increased from 12 States to 33 States/UTs. He recalled the drought the country faced 50 years ago which destroyed three crops. The 2015-16 has also faced similar situation. Even then the 3rd estimate of 2015-16 has indicated that the overall production of agricultural products is more than 2014-15. On agri-market, he informed that all the Agriculture Ministers of States met this year and deliberated on the APMC Acts. He expressed the concern that the farmers do not get adequate price of their produce in the Krishi mandies. In the current year, under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana (PMKSY), the budgetary allocation has been enhanced and the Ministry will complete 18-20 such big irrigation projects/programmes. Rs. 12,517/- crore has been kept for this purpose. He stated that with the help of NABARD, a corpus fund of Rs. 20,000 crore has been created. This Government intends to complete all the 89 big projects so that all the cultivable land gets irrigation water which will ensure increase in agriculture production benefiting all the 14 crore farmers of the country. He expressed satisfaction over cooperation of States in achieving distribution of soil health cards to 4.75 lakhs of farmers during 2015-16. The performance is getting acceleration during 2016-17.

He detailed the efforts made in improving the market facilities to the farmers mainly on three counts. First, the licensing system. Instead of mandi-wise licensing, there should be single license for a state as a whole. Secondly, levy of market fee should be taken at one point. Thirdly, e-trading should be encouraged so that information from different mandis/states can be made available to every farmer.

On availability of food grains, he told that though there were adverse weather conditions, the country has buffer stock of the quantity of wheat 4 times more than required. For pulses, he hailed creation of buffer stock with the help of FCI, NAFED, SFAC etc. It was initiated with Rs. 500 crore so that States can have working capital for market intervention to keep prices under control. He informed that even after 5 communications to States, only Telangana and Andhra Pradesh responded. He raised the concern on speculative trading, artificial scarcity and hoarding of pulses as the seized quantity, during anti-hoarding operations last year, was ten times more than what was imported by the government.

He appealed to all the states to utilize the assistance under the Price Stabilization Fund. Central Government provided funds for exhibition of pulses and edible oilseeds fields first time as earlier it depended on the States only. In RKSM, through 475 KVKs, the seeds are provided to farmers through district and block level Agriculture Officers in all States. For pulses, dalhan advance exhibitions are being organized. Dalhan Seeds hubs are being created, initially in 100 KVKs to be increased to 150. Weather friendly and drought tolerant seeds varieties have been developed. He also appealed to all the States to utilize the funds under the NFSM for increasing production of pulses.

4. In his inaugural address, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution expressed concern on the rise in prices of the specified food items like pulses, sugar, edible oilseeds commodities partly due to hoarding, profiteering, unscrupulous trading and cartelling by traders and middlemen. He pointed out that the traders hoard the stock of a commodity in a bordering State where stock limits are not imposed. Therefore, there is need that all States & UTs should impose stock limits. He also recommended that importers of pulses should display stock position on public platforms such as portals of Ministry of Consumer Affairs or State Governments portals to bring in more transparency about availability of stock. He strongly felt that Government agencies should go for long term supply contract in place of tendering time to time for the import of pulses for building the buffer stock. He asked the States to rationalise stock limits on pulses for millers, importers and dealers. There should be logical and scientific stock limits separately for consuming states and surplus states so that supply chain mechanism remains smooth and pulses are available at reasonable prices. He also requested States to exempt pulses from VAT and other local taxes in the lean period as it may help cool the prices of the commodity by 5% to 7%.

Regarding the prices of sugar, the Minister said that he has written to the chief Ministers of Maharashtra, U.P., Karnataka and Tamil Nadu requesting them to keep a close watch on the release and stock held by sugar mills to ensure availability in the domestic market. He said that production linked export incentive has been withdrawn now

midway to ensure adequate availability of the sugar in the domestic market. The states have been asked to implement stock limits effectively.

He said that the government is effectively using Price Stabilization Fund for creating buffer stock of pulses and onions. So far, about 50,000 MT Kharif pulses and about 25,000 Rabi pulses have been procured and 26,000 MT contracted for import for buffer stock. Out of this 10,000 MT have been allocated to the States demanded. Requests from other States are awaited for further allocations.

He said that the Center has further decided to strengthen price monitoring mechanism by including more markets for collecting price data. He said that State Governments have also been requested to set up price monitoring mechanism at their level and also to take timely action to ensure availability of commodities.

Appreciating the efforts of State Governments for implementing National Food Security Act, he said that now 72 crores of people across 33 States/UTs have become eligible for subsidised wheat at Rs. 2/kg and rice at Rs. 3/kg. He advised that now States should focus better targeting of food subsidy. He said End-to-End computerization of TPDS would certainly help in this venture. So far, about 56% ration cards have been seeded with Aadhaar numbers against the total Aadhaar coverage of about 83%. More than 1,15,909 FPSs have been automated across the country by installing biometric devices, and this count is likely to be increased to 3,06,526 FPSs by March, 2017. About 1.62 crore ineligible ration cards have been eliminated and foodgrains worth Rs. 10,000 crore have been better targeted.

The Minister said that the decision was also taken to ensure online allocation of foodgrains up to FPS within two months in the States where it has yet to be done. So far, it is being done in 25 States. States were also requested to expedite preparation for online procurement of foodgrains by their agencies. Farmers' mobile numbers should be registered and their Bank account numbers should be taken for direct deposit of system generated cheques. Remaining non-DCP States were requested to take up DCP operations as it would help in saving food subsidy, enhancing the efficiency of procurement and public distribution & encouraging local procurement to the maximum extent thereby extending the benefits of MSP to local farmers.

In order to strengthen storage facilities, Government has approved a road map for construction of steel Silos of 100 LMT capacity in the next 4-5 years in three phases for both wheat and rice. **Depot-Online** scheme has already been launched for monitoring the operations in 30 FCI Depots on pilot basis and by July this year all the 554 depots will be online. He expressed hope that these efforts will result in improving food grains management. He appealed that as decided by the conference, all State Governments will work in coordinated way to ensure availability of essential food commodities at reasonable prices.

He disclosed that 50,000 tones of Tur and 5000 tones of Urad has already been procured for buffer stock under the PSF. He impressed on harmonising the interests of farmers and consumers both.

5. A booklet on Essential Commodities Regulation and Enforcement was released by Hon'ble Minister for CA, F&PD and Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The booklet is meant for use by enforcement agencies as reference book.

6. Presentations by different Departments

All the three participating departments of Central Government made representations on briefing programmes undertaken by them and future action plan to enhance production, to improve distribution and supply and enforce the Acts. Shri K. Srinivasan, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare made representation on the schemes taken up by the Ministry of Agriculture to increase production of pulses.

Ms. Chandralekha Malviya, Principal Adviser, Department of Consumer Affairs made a brief representation on the price trend of all 22 essential food items monitored by the department. She explained various factors contributing to price rise in a commodity.

Presentation of the Department of Food and Public Distribution was lead by Ms. Vrinda Sarup, Secretary of the department. She briefed about implications of judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding implementation of the NFS Act. If the States lag behind in compliance, it may lead to contempt of court. She advised all the State to ensure compliance of the judgment within the required time limit. She advised all the States to appoint District Grievance Redressal Officer, State Food Commission under the NFS Act and to cover all persons under PDS in drought affected areas. She asked all the States to seed all ration cards with Aadhaar numbers by December, leakages and unsavory activities to be stopped immediately by digitizing entire supply chain from FCI godowns to the beneficiaries, to ensure complete foodgrains management, automation of FPSs, to shift to DCP by next Rabi season, to improve, modernize, enhance and upgrade storage capacity to store foodgrains to the level of their requirement, farmers online registration for transparent and efficient procurement and to develop software by all States.

7. The Union Ministers and Ministers from State Governments then deliberated on the agenda items in length.

It was noted that;

1. Production of pulses needs to be enhanced. In addition, Import of pulses needs to be planned through long term contracts, instead of stop-gap arrangements.
2. Storage capacity for perishable and non-perishable food items needs to be augmented and upgraded. Especially, the cold storage chains for perishable food items to be strengthened to the need of respective State.

3. Imported pulses should not be allowed to be hoarded at port for unreasonably longer period after clearance from the concerned authorities.
4. Our farmers, traders and Government agencies dealing with pulses, may explore possibility of producing pulses in countries like Canada, Australia etc. for marketing in India.
5. The stock limit on pulses varies from State to State, some have no stock limits and some have very low and some very high. This needs to be harmonized and rationalized.
6. Multi –level levy of market fee in agri-products increases cost of purchase and cost of sale and also increases hardships of farmers. There is need of single point market fee in one State.
7. Pulses and edible oils/oil seeds be exempted from levy of taxes to bring down their prices in the open market.
8. All the States to undertake reforms in Agricultural Market Laws to facilitate e-National Marketing.
9. Farmers should be provided e-marketing platform to know price trends, availability etc. in different marketing centres to get better prices for their produce.
10. Importers of pulses should disclose the quantity imported, when imported, rate of imported quantity and when and how they are going to dispose it in the indigenous market.
11. States need to create PSF and buffer stock of pulses at their own to ensure real-time market intervention to keep prices under control.
12. There is need to engage a professional independent agency to collect, examine, disseminate data and offer solutions to different problems regarding demand and supply, price trends, speculation, unscrupulous trading, artificial shortage, hoarding, cartelling and black marketing in pulses and other essential food items. Thus entire information mechanism from Centre to Districts should be strengthened. States should report the prices on daily basis on Saturday and Sundays too.
13. States should lift the whole pulses procured by Government under the PSF immediately and ensure its availability to the consumers through market intervention to bring down the prices of pulses at reasonable level.
14. There is need to examine recommendations of Jha Committee on pulses.
15. The States need to use the Prevention of Detention Laws effectively against all the persons violating orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act. Tamil Nadu model of policing may be replicated in all the States to check hoarding, profiteering and black marketing of essential food items.
16. The States to make arrangements at their own for milling and stocking of the pulses lifted from the buffer stock.
17. As done by some States, all States may hold regular meetings with the dealers of pulses and fix prices at which the pulses can be sold to the primary consumers.
18. Better coordination and interaction is required between Union and State Governments and officers. As production of food items is with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministers/Officers from Agriculture Ministries of central government and state government are required. Therefore, the consultation meetings are required twice a year instead of one.

8. The forenoon session concluded with the following action plan for the year;

1. The National Consultation Meetings will be held twice a year and Ministers and officers from Agriculture Ministries will be invited.
2. Programmes on increase in production of pulses and edible oilseeds be implemented vigorously in order to minimise the gap between demand and supply of pulses and edible oilseeds.
3. Government to go for long term supply contracts in place of time to time tendering for the import of pulses for building the buffer stock. .
4. The cold storage chains for perishable food items are to be strengthened to increase the capacity and be upgraded to increase the life of such commodities.
5. States should impose time limits of 45 days after landing for disposal of entire imported quantity to the indigenous market. Importers of pulses should also disclose stock position in a transparent manner.
6. States to rationalise stock limits on pulses for millers, importers and dealers. There should be logical and scientific stock limits separately for consuming states and surplus states, so that supply chain mechanism remains smooth and pulses are available at reasonable prices. States may consider imposing stock limits on pulses as per the following broad framework, subject to any specific local conditions as under;

Dealer	Item	Stock Limit	
		Producing States	Consuming States
Millers: (Average of last 3 years of utilized milling capacity)	Raw Pulses	2-3 Months during harvest (April to July) gradually reduce to 2 months and then upto one month.	1 to 11/2 Month (April to July) gradually reduces to 15 days.
		Milled Dal	1 Month (April to July)
		15 Days (August to March)	15 Days
Traders	MT	No consensus could be formed. However, it was felt that a maximum of 200 MT (Raw or /and Milled Dal) can be allowed subject to the condition that there should not be more than 100 MT of one variety. States can also change these limits considering local factors.	

7. States should strive to exempt VAT and local taxes on pulses wherever it is needed to cool the prices.
8. A State should strive to levy single point market fee in the State on agri-products and that Pulses be exempted from levy of taxes to bring down their prices in the open market.
9. Reforms in Agricultural Market Laws to facilitate e-National Marketing to be completed earliest possible by all States.
10. States should create their own PSF, if not already done and maintain buffer stock of pulses at their own and ensure real-time market intervention to keep prices under control.

11. Department of Consumer Affairs will engage a professional independent agency to collect, examine, disseminate data and offer solutions to different problems regarding demand and supply, price trends, speculation, unscrupulous trading, artificial shortage, hoarding, cartelling and black marketing in pulses and other essential food items, after completing procedural requirements.
12. States should lift the whole pulses procured by Government under the PSF immediately and ensure its availability to the consumers through market intervention to bring down the prices of pulses at reasonable level.
13. The States will examine Tamil Nadu model of policing-under the EC Act- for replication to ensure effective preventive detention in all the States to check hoarding, profiteering, cartelling, unscrupulous trading and black marketing of essential commodities.
14. The States to make arrangements at their own for milling and stocking of the pulses lifted from the buffer stock. And the pulses received from the PSF be sold not above the rates prescribed.
15. All States will hold meetings with the dealers of pulses and fix prices at which the pulses can be sold by the wholesalers to retailers and by retailers to the primary consumers.
16. All the States will submit monthly reports on implementation of the EC Act, PBMMSEC Act and LM Act regularly. Rules under the LM be notified on priority.
17. NFSA, DBT, End-to-end computerisation, DCP Scheme, Online Procurement System, Silo construction and all other programmes under the D/o Food & PD, to be implemented effectively with all components in a time bound manner.
18. Maharashtra, U.P., Karnataka and Tamil Nadu will keep a close watch on the release and stock held by sugar mills to ensure availability of sugar in the domestic market.

9. **Discussions with officers of states in the afternoon session:**

- A. **Issues related to Department of Food and Public Distribution-**The discussions with the representative officers of States/UTs were held under the chairmanship of Secretary, D/o Food, & Public Distribution Ms. Vrinda Sarup. Detailed account of discussions with decisions are at **Annexure-I**.
- B. **Issues related to Department of Consumer Affairs-** The issues related to department of consumer affairs were discussed with the representatives of State Governments and Union Territories under the chairmanship of Secretary, Consumer Affairs, Sh. Hem Pande. Details of discussions and decisions are as per **annexure-II**.

**DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICERS OF STATES ON THE ISSUES RELATED TO D/O
FOOD & PD**

Haryana

BEL and Visiontech are deploying E-PoS in the state. Though, the timeline committed by the State for deployment of e-PoS in all FPS was December 2016, the state Government is attempting to complete it before 1 November 2016. Aadhaar seeding is currently 87%. Seeding attempted through SRDH is not generating good matching percentage. Village names and names of households are not matching in the records. Further seeding is proving difficult as there are chances that many of the un-seeded ration cards are bogus and that's why the card holders are not coming forward with Aadhaar details. If the Aadhaar Act is notified then the entire seeding exercise can be done in a period of one month. DG, UIDAI, stated that the regulations are under preparation and the Act will be notified in few weeks time. In the meanwhile, State Govts can ask for more proofs from beneficiary to prove his/her bonafide and this will help in identifying bogus cards and also help in aadhaar seeding process. Secretary, DFPD, suggested learning from the experiences of other states, like Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, who have managed 100% seeding.

2. Regarding the requirement of bank account in the name of women head for introducing cash DBT, the state felt that in case of elderly women this provision would create difficulties. State Govt was advised to make provision for joint accounts in such cases.

Maharashtra

3. State Govt. suggested provisions to be made by UIDAI to seed Aadhaar using demographic authentication and comparison of photographs. Since demographic matching results in around 30% matching only, it may be useful to use photographs to match databases and seed Aadhaar. Suggestion was also made for use of Fuzzy logic for Aadhaar seeding.

4. DG, UIDAI, shared that there is already a provision for bulk demographic authentication, though the facility to match photograph is not available. He further informed that UIDAI tried out fuzzy logic technique and found it unreliable. He also noted that since the names of persons in different databases (e.g. Ration card database and PAN database) may be spelt differently, there is low probability of finding right matches in these cases. In order to overcome some of the problems encountered during demographic match, the states can also collect (a) name as in Aadhaar, and (b) photocopy of Aadhaar, during collection of Aadhaar number. This will help to verify cases where names do not match.

Odisha

5. State Govt. is using NPR as a base for generating ration cards. 64% of the ration cards have been seeded with Aadhaar using NPR records shared by RGI. RGI has been requested to share the rest of the data. However, the state is yet to receive the data from RGI. State is looking forward to seed the data using organic seeding process.

Chhattisgarh

6. Unit level Aadhaar Seeding in ration cards is still low. Many members of the families are not seeded or their Aadhaar number is not generated. There are also gaps in terms of application for enrolment and generation of Aadhaar number.

7. DG, UIDAI shared that in most states 90 % of the adult population have their Aadhaar generated. However in the age group of 5-18 and 0-5 a sizable population is yet to be covered. Hence the current focus on enrolment is on 5-18 and 0-5 year's age group through special drives in Anganwadi Centres and Schools. UIDAI is aggressively targeting to complete this exercise in next 2-3 months. The pendency (gap between enrolment and generation) is largely owing to rejected applications. Otherwise the UIDAIs have the capacity to generate 20 lakh Aadhaar in a day (against current burden on 5-6 lakh Aadhaar in a day).

Uttar Pradesh

8. Aadhaar Seeding in ration card data base stands at 40%. The State Govt.is looking for a tie-up with CSC for organic seeding. However they charge Rs. 5 /- for seeding each person. Hence if GOI could allow utilization of funds from component I for this purpose then the state could speed-up the seeding process. The state is having regular meeting with the Chief Secretary to monitor the progress. State Govt. also requested for funds for implementing online procurement.

9. State Govt. was requested to send a proposal for utilisation of TPDS computerisation funds for Aadhaar seeding.

10. State Govt. also made a request for allocation of additional foodgrains to cover population beyond NFSA in Bundelkhand region, which is drought affected. State Govt. was requested to send a proposal at the earliest.

11. As regards silos, it was stated that the State Govt. is interested in non-railway siding silos. It was clarified that State Govt, can do this, with the bagging facility.

Tripura

12. Currently 93 % Aadhaar seeding in ration cards has been achieved. Organic seeding through fair price shops will be done cover the remaining.

Andhra Pradesh

13. State Govt. has spent nearly Rs 200 crore in automating the PDS system and requested Government of India to release its share on reimbursement basis.

Jharkhand

14. Due to the switch over to the NFSA, foodgrains for October- November months could not be lifted on time. State Govt. requested sympathetic consideration on their request for extension of time. State Govt. also requested for faster movement of rakes so that there is no shortage of foodgrains in any district.

Karnataka

15. State Govt. requested for simplification in the process of DCP payments and accounts finalization. Early release of Central assistance under NFSA for intra-State movement of foodgrains and FPS dealers margin was also requested.

Haryana

16. State Govt. expressed its reluctance to join DCP as the quality control system of the State Govt. is not as equipped as that of FCI

17. Action points :

- (i) State Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Nagaland should expedite implementation of NFSA and send a proposal in this regard to DFPD at the earliest, after completing necessary preparatory activities.
- (ii) All the NFSA States/UTs should ensure compliance with provision regarding women empowerment and grievance redressal mechanism under the Act.
- (iii) States/UTs in receipt of 'tide over' allocation must have a transparent policy for its distribution, a separate list of such beneficiaries should be placed on the PDS portal
- (iv) Target date for completion of Aadhaar seeding and FPS automation is March, 2017. All States/UTs should prepare their action plan to achieve this target and share the same with DFPD
- (v) In States/UTs where e-PoS machines have been installed and are operational should ensure that transaction details and summary reports are visible on the PDS portal.
- (vi) Gaps in NFSA/TPDS beneficiaries data base such as non-segregation of NFSA and non-NFSA beneficiaries, lack of drill down facility etc should be addressed quickly
- (vii) All NFSA implementing States/UTs should ensure online allocation of foodgrains upto fair price shop levels, if not already done, within two months.
- (viii) All the procuring States should adopt online procurement from KMS 2016-17

- (ix) State-wise phased construction plans for silos should be adhered to. State Govts are however free to advance the timelines that envisaged.
- (x) FCI should ensure adequate and timely availability of foodgrains to meet the distribution requirement in each State. The issues raised in this regard by Govts of Jharkhand and Bihar should be specifically looked into.
- (xi) For meeting additional requirement of foodgrains for State scheme of J&K, to be launched from July, 2016, FCI should ensure availability of foodgrains in its depots in the State.
- (xii) States/UTs should send, by first week of June, 2016, action taken report in compliance of the order dated 13.05.2016 of the Supreme Court in the Swaraj Abhiyan case.

DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICERS OF STATES ON THE ISSUES RELATED TO D/O CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Secretary(CA) initiating the discussion mentioned that the in the last meeting an action plan was prepared and States might have acted on it. This year a buffer stock of pulses has been created under the Price Stabilisation Fund. But there are few takers of pulses out of the buffer stock. He requested all the non-demanding States to give reasons for not submitting requisition for purchasing and lifting pulses. State wise comments are as under;

1. **Maharashtra:** 500 MT of pulses was demanded which has been received, rest is being procured by the State itself.
2. **Haryana:** The State consumes Chana more than other pulses. The stock limits have been revised for Millers. Now instead of average of sanction capacity, it is average of last year's actual consumption which taken for deciding stock limits.
3. **Odisha:** 5000 MT Tur is demanded. Some bigger quantity of Tur is required. They requested for information on stock limits on pulses by other States.
4. **Jharkhand:** Last year the State government held meeting with all the major dealers of pulses and discussed the issue. It then decided the maximum retail price for different pulses. The State Government has involved cooperatives for this purpose. They suggested that it is better to negotiate the prices with whole salers and retailers.
5. **Bihar:** Bihar has no milling facility. 95% of Tur is procured from other States. The State mainly consumes Masur, 50% of the total pulses consumption. It also grows Masur as major pulse, rest is imported from other States.
6. **Madhya Pradesh:** A demand for 5000 MT of Tur is given. 15 cases under PBMMSEC booked.
7. **Karnataka:** The state raised some issues pertaining to Legal Metrology. Expansion of the schedule of the LM Act was demanded. State suggested some kinds of guidelines on stock limits are required.
8. **Uttarakhand:** There is no dal mil in the State. They have not submitted any demand as the prices are under control in the State.
9. **Arunachal Pradesh:** The State has no dal mil and there is no price problem in the State. They have not submitted any demand for pulses.
10. **Himachal Pradesh:** No dal mil and no demand is sent so far. The State has no price problem.

11. **Kerala:** There is no issue of stock limits. The State has not favoured stock limits on pulses. The regular meetings with traders of pulse are held to keep prices under control. Prices are under control. 6 centres are reporting to PMC.
12. **Sikkim:** There is no problem of prices in pulses. The State is going organic in production of pulses, production is increasing. No dal mil in the State. No demand submitted.
13. **Tripura:** No dal mills in the State. Masur dal is preferred. They suggested if the imported pulses can be routed through FCI after milling.
14. **Maharashtra:** The State supports rationalisation of stock limits. The suggested that rationalisation in enforcement action is also required. The 45 days for importers was supported for first stage transaction by the importers i.e. from date of landing to reaching to the market. Pulses demanded have already been supplied. The State last year fixed retail price after discussions with the dealers. The State has drafted a pulses prices bill which will come to the Central Government after approval of Governor. Offences under the EC Act be made non-bailable.
15. **Meghalaya:** The State is sending requirement for pulses. Stock limits not imposed. The state is not having mills.
16. **Andhra Pradesh:** The state has taken pulses and distributing through sale points and not through PDS. The State supports rationalisation of stock limits.
17. **Uttar Pradesh:** The State has constituted State Advisory Board under the PBMMSEC Act. Raids are being conducted but detentions are not ordered.
18. **Assam:** There is no dal mil in the State. The State is not in favour of stock limits. Prices are under control. Regularly meetings held with traders and raids conducted. Masoor and Moong pulses are required. The State will project its requirement.

Action Points:

1. The States should send information on how much is production, how much consumption and how to fill up the gap.
2. The buffer stock under the PSF is meant for strategic market intervention by States and not to be used for PDS or to control market. Alternate mechanism be explored for PDS. The States should keep buffer stock for real time market intervention to keep the prices at reasonable level. It may be that whatever is asked is not available with the Government. If a State can contain prices of pulses without buffer stock or pulses from the buffer stock, it should intimate so in writing, then the responsibility will lie with the State itself for rise in prices.
3. Regarding Chana/Gram, States were advised to project their demand then it will be procured and made available to the States.

4. After lifting the pulses from the buffer stock, payments be made by the States quickly.
5. To contain prices of pulses, States should have long term plan to enhance availability of pulses.
6. Those States who do not have dal mills, may take help from the PMC and States with dal mills to get in contact with the millers.
7. Since Section 3(2)(c) of the EC Act, empowers to fix prices of any essential commodity at which it can be bought or sold, States should hold regular meetings with the traders of pulses and fix prices as done by some States successfully e.g. Jharkhand, Maharashtra.
8. If the States do not need pulses, it should come as NIL demand, in writing with the assurance that they can contain the prices of pulses without pulses from the buffer stock of Central Government. The information may be given through e-mail also.
9. All the States should submit their monthly report on enforcement of the EC Act, PBMMSEC Act and LM Act. The administration should not only exist but be felt by the people. Therefore the State administration should act effectively.
10. The States should frame the rules under the Legal Metrology and send to the Central Government as required.
11. The States should submit their comments on rationalisation of stock limits of pulses on importers, wholesalers, retailers, millers etc., keeping into account the factors of maximum-minimum limits, producing and non-producing States, consumptions pattern etc.
12. States to comment on replication of Tamil Nadu model of dedicated policing for essential commodities under the EC Act. The State of TN has a department known as Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Criminal Investigation Department and works under the control of Principal Secretary of Food, Cooperation and Consumer Protection department.
13. The States should ensure that the price reporting centres are sending reports daily and realistic. The information should be sent on Saturday and Sunday as well.
14. All the criminals arrested under the EC Act, for any kind of violation of any order issued under the Act, be detained for six months under the Prevention of Black Marketing And Maintenance of Supply of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The beginners may consult the Tamil Nadu CSCID of Police on implementation of the PBMMSEC Act etc.