

F.No.10(14)98-99/EIR
Department of Consumer Affairs
PRICE MONITORING CELL

Note for the High Powered Price Monitoring Board

One of the decisions taken in the Chief Ministers Meeting held on 27.11.98 was to set up a special cell to monitor and analyse price data and trends of essential commodities.

Special Cell to Monitor Prices

1. The Prime Minister has approved the proposal for setting up of the Special Cell in the Department of Consumer Affairs. The Cell would monitor and analyse price data and trends of availability of essential commodities, and formulate proposals relating to export and import of essential commodities, market intervention, etc. for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Prices. The Cell would establish requisite mechanism in consultation with Ministry of Agriculture for obtaining crop price and production data from various centres in the country and share these information suitably with States. It would also coordinate action on all the tasks envisaged by the Conference of Chief Ministers held on 27.11.98. Further, the Cell would service the High Powered Price Monitoring Board, which has been constituted separately.

Organisational setup

2. Accordingly, a Special Cell to Monitor Price trends has been set up in the Department of Consumer Affairs. The Cell is headed by the Additional Secretary in the Department of Consumer Affairs. An Additional Economic Adviser assisted by three Assistant Economic Advisers will be directly associated with the of the Cell (Annexure I). Economic Adviser in the Department and other officers will also provide necessary assistance to Price Monitoring Cell.

Commodities to be monitored

3. The following essential commodities have been provisionally identified for monitoring their prices and availability on a daily as well as weekly basis.

1. Wheat:- Wheat and Atta,
2. Rice :- Common and Fine varieties,
3. Edible oils:- Mustard oil, Groundnut oil, Soya, Coconut oil and Sunflower oil,
4. Vegetables:- Potato, Onions, Tomato, Brinjal and Cabbage,
5. Spices:- Chillies (dry)
6. Tea
7. Coffee
8. Sugar
9. Pulses:- Arahara, Gram, Moong, Urad, and Masur
10. Salt.
11. Any other commodity depending on the availability and price situation

Estimates of production

4. Based on the information made available by the National Forecasting Centre set up in the Ministry of Agriculture the cell will keep a continuous watch on the production estimates. The Cell will also keep a track of the weather situation, its impact on production and corresponding adjustments in production from time to time.

Demand and supply

5. The Cell, with the close cooperation of the State Food & Civil Supplies Departments, keep up to date information about the availability and prices of commodities in different States. Necessary action plan to overcome the shortages, if any, within the country will be prepared.

Imports and Exports

6. The cell will keep a continuous watch on the import and export of the essential commodities. Necessary statistics relating to imports and export shall be maintained up to date in quantity and value terms. Proposals for any policy changes in imports and exports of essential commodities will also be attended by the Cell.

International Prices and Production

7. The cell will maintain information about the international prices of essential commodities, their production, source of origin and their availability in quantitative terms.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

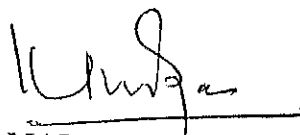
8. Retail and wholesale prices of the essential commodities will be collected, as on every Wednesday, on a weekly basis. A monthly bulletin on prices of these essential commodities will be brought out by 10th of the succeeding month. The bulletin will be circulated to various other Ministries/Departments of the Union Government and to the Food & Civil Supplies Departments of all State Governments.

Analytical Commodity Reports

9. These reports will be generated as principal out put of the computer at regular interval for submission to CCP and High Powered Price Monitoring Board for taking policy decisions.

10. The daily price monitoring of 12 essential commodities will continue.

New Delhi
Dated : 4.1.1999


(KAMAL KISHORE)
ECONOMIC ADVISER

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

ANNEXURE-I

ECONOMIC DIVISION

PRICE MONITORING CELL

SECRETARY (CA)

ADDITIONAL SECRETARY

ECONOMIC ADVISER

ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC ADVISER*

<u>PRICE MONITORING CELL</u>		<u>EIR UNIT</u>	
Assistant Economic Adviser	(2)*	Deputy Director	(1)
Deputy Director	(1)	Research Officer	(1)
Research Officer	(1)	Senior Investigator	(1)
Senior Investigator	(1)	Jr. Investigator	(3)
Jr. Investigator	(2)	Computist	(1)
Sr. Artist	(1)	L.D.C.	(1)
L.D.C.	(1)		

WORK ALLOCATION

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|---|--|
| i) All work relating to Price Monitoring Cell including service to HPPMB | ii) Collection and processing of data on WPI |
| ii) Daily Price Monitoring of 12 essential commodities from 18 centres | ii) Preparation of Weekly Notes on Latest Price Situation |
| iii) Weekly monitoring of 12 commodities from 37 centres | iii) Preparation of analytical Notes for HPPMB, CCP & CCEA |
| iv) Preparation of Monthly Bulletin on prices | iv) Preparation of replies to Parliament Questions and related matters on prices |
| v) Public Complaints/VIP references relating to prices | v) Examination of Special Reports on Rabi and Kharif Crops pricing prepared by the CACP, NAFED, M/o Agriculture etc. |
| vi) Market intervention scheme of essential commodities | vi) Coordination with other Departments. |
| vii) Matters relating to production Export/Import of essential commodities in relation to Export and Import policy. | |
| viii) Interaction with various Commodities Development Councils/Advisory Councils | |
| ix) Notes on short term forecasting of availability and prices | |
| x) Collection of information on international production, prices, exports, levies, marketable surplus etc. | |
| xi) Actual market intervention as and when need arise | |
| xii) Convening the meetings of Chief Secretaries of States from time to time. | |

* Three posts [Addl. Economic Adviser/Dy. Economic Adviser(One) and Assistant Economic Advisers (two)] have been sanctioned under the Cell. So far only one Assistant Economic Adviser has joined. 1 Post of Research Officer vacant. 3 Posts of Junior Investigator vacant. 1 Post of Computist vacant.