

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 14th June, 2019

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

Alok
24.06.2019
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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 **May, 2019**.

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

1.1 Govt issued order u/s 123 of the MSCS Act, 2002 for supersession of the Board 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. Government filed LPA before the Division Bench. In its order dated 30.04.2019, Division Bench directed that: *"We are of the considered view that if there is difficulty in implementing the order dated 31.07.2018, namely in carrying out the day to day activities without an Administrator, the appellants may seek modification or clarification of the order before the writ court. It would then be for the writ court to either decide the matter finally at an earlier date or to grant some other appropriate relief"*. Thereafter, an application was filed 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 (who was appointed as MD by the Central Government) and Justice (Retd) Indermeet Kaur as Chairman of the interim Board. Aggrieved by this order, the Department filed LPA before Division Bench with prayer to permit the appellant to appoint administrator. It was stated that Dr. Bijender Singh has incurred disqualification. The LPA was disposed of by the Hon'ble Court on 28.05.2019 which granted liberty to raise this issue before the writ court. The matter was discussed with the Ld. ASG and based on his advice, an application is being filed in the Hon'ble High Court for having 2 retired Secretaries to the Govt of India on the Interim Board instead Dr. Bijinder Singh and the MD, NCCF (who is a non-voting Member of the Board).

1.2 Shri Kamal Chowdhery, the then MD, NCCF filed OA before CAT on 22 April 2019 for quashing the suspension as well chargesheet. The matter was heard on 31st May, 2019 and is now listed for 15 July, 2019

2. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC):

2.1 During the month, the NCDRC delivered the following judgments, which are noteworthy:

2.1.1 Vijay Kumar & Vinod Kumar vs. IFFCO / Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-operative Society Ltd.

NCDRC granted compensation of about Rs 5 lakh to two farmers of Haryana from Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO). This compensation was granted after the IFFCO had sold defective guar seeds to farmers that led to 70% crop failure. While selling seeds, IFFCO assured yield of 8 to 10 quintals per acre. However, even after following proper instructions and procedures, the yield was only about 30%.

2.1.2 Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd vs Devender Mohan Anand, Delhi

This is a case of medical negligence and impleading the Insurance Company as a party to the disputes.

The complainant filed a complaint of medical negligence against Sunder Lal Jain Hospital, Delhi, and 3 of its doctors in the State Commission of Delhi. The hospital subsequently filed an application impleading the Insurance Company in the case, which was allowed by the State Commission vide its order dated 18.3.2016. The Insurance Company filed an appeal in the NCDRC against the order of the State Commission dated 9-4-2018. The NCDRC declined the appeal stating medical negligence is alleged against this hospital and doctors and not against insurance company. NCDRC opined that Insurance Company is not a proper and necessary party in consumer dispute which is under adjudication between the complainant and the hospital and the doctors and therefore the Insurance Company stands deleted from the array of the parties before the State Commission. The NCDRC reasoned that the insurance company has nothing to do with the medical negligence per se. The medical negligence or any stigma attached thereto cannot be determined against the insurance company.

2.2 Based on opinion of Ld.AG, an application was filed before Hon'ble Supreme Court to extend the tenure of one Judicial Member (Sh V.K. Jain) as sought by President, NCDRC. The same was approved by Hon'ble Supreme Court on 29 May, 2019.

3. Essential Commodities Act:

CoS in its meeting held on 9.5.2019 discussed simplification of renewal of licensing by doing away with the requirement of annual/ periodic renewal of licenses in control orders issued under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act by the concerned Ministries / Departments. It was agreed to by the concerned Ministries to amend their respective control orders so as to make the validity of the licenses to be at least 5 years.

4. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

4.1 Draft BIS (Recruitment to Laboratory Technical Posts) Regulations have been finalized and sent to Legislative Department for vetting.

4.2 The BIS Rules, 2018 has been amended vide notification dated 29.05.2019 thereby increasing the number of members on the Executive Committee (EC) from 11 to 12 by including Joint Secretary of Department of Consumer Affairs as Member with a view to have better representation of the Government on the EC of BIS.

5. Pulses Buffer Stock:

5.1 As on 31.05.2019, of the old stock of 20.50 LMT, 20.22 LMT has been disposed leaving a balance of 0.28 LMT. Also, 11.66 LMT of pulses have been transferred / replenished from Price Support Scheme (PSS) of DACFW to PSF buffer stock. As on 31.5.2019, a buffer stock of 35,000 MT onion has been created through procurement in Maharashtra & Gujarat against a target of 50,000 MT onion.

5.2. CoS was briefed on Pulses and Onion Outlook for the year 2019-20 in its meeting held on 9th May, 2019. It was decided that the IMC under the chairmanship of Secretary, D/o FPD may be apprised of the outlook for recommending appropriate policy intervention and DoCA may keep a close watch on availability and prices of onion. Further, NAFED and DACFW may take necessary steps to increase storage capacity for onions.

5.3 A Zonal conference was held on 30th May, 2019 in Shillong, Meghalaya regarding Scheme of Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) in which representatives from eight North-Eastern States participated and training on price reporting was imparted to them. A brief session on PSF was also held and States were requested to send their proposal for setting up the State Level PSF in their States.

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

S N	Indices	Inflation Rate (in %)		
		April, 2019 (Provisional)	March, 2019 (Provisional)	April, 2018 (Final)
1	Wholesale Price# Index(Annual)	3.07	3.18	3.62
2	Wholesale Price Index# (Food Articles)	7.37	5.68	0.87
3	Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers)	8.33	7.67	3.97
4	Consumer Price Index (Combined)*	2.92	2.86	4.58
5	Consumer Price Index (Consumer Food Index)*	1.10	0.30	2.80

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

7. Price trends for the month of May, 2019 over April, 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 May, 2019 over April, 2019 are given below:-

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

Sl.	Commodity	May, 20 (latest)	April, 20 (previous month)	Differen (In Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Rice	31	30	1
	Wheat	26	26	0
	Atta	28	28	0
	Gram Dal	66	65	1
	Tur Dal	79	76	3
	Urad Dal	72	72	0
	Moong Dal	79	77	2
	Masoor Dal	62	62	0
	Sugar	38	38	0
1	Milk	43	43	0
1	Groundnut Oil	128	127	1
1	Mustard Oil	109	108	1
1	Vanaspati	80	81	-1
1	Soya oil	92	92	0
1	Sunflower Oil	99	99	0
1	Palm Oil	75	75	0
1	Gur	43	43	0
1	Tea loose	212	211	1
1	Salt Pack	15	15	0
2	Potato	17	16	1
2	Onion	17	16	1
2	Tomato	33	26	7

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments

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-fi
211	174

6. Status of Public Grievances

No of Public Grievances redressed during month of May, 2019	No of Public Grievances pending the end of May, 2019
749	527

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

Total dockets registered on Nat Consumer Helpline (NCH) during the month of May, 2019.	Total dockets closed at the end of May, 2019.
61893	34946

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