



Scheme for
Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell (PMC)
Revised Guidelines



Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs
Krishi Bhawan
New Delhi
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Department of Consumer Affairs
Price Monitoring Cell
F.No.M-8/1/2018-PMC
Scheme for Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell
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1. Introduction

1.1 The Department of Consumer Affairs monitors the daily retail and wholesale price of identified essential food items from price monitoring centres located across the country. For making this process robust, a scheme, 'Strengthening of Price Monitoring Cell (PMC)' aimed at fortifying the price collection and monitoring system in the Centre as well as in the States/UTs, through support for infrastructure and capacity building, was initiated during the Twelfth Five Year Plan. This scheme has been strengthened further and approved for continuation till 2020.

1.2 One of the components of the Scheme provides for improvement in data reporting systems at the State/UT level through capacity building and infrastructural support for their price reporting centres. Taking into account requests from States Governments /UT Administrations and with a view to further improving the reliability and regularity of price reports from these centres, from Financial Year 2018-19 onwards, new items of funding support have been added. These comprise remuneration for a contractual employee at the level of Data Entry Operator (DEO) and provision of a handheld device with geotagging facilities for price collection alongwith a simcard for the said device. The guidelines for scheme of Strengthening of PMC have, accordingly, been revised as follows:



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2. Grants to States/UTs

2.1 Components of Expenditure and Periodicity of Release

<i>Component</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Periodicity of release</i>
A) IT Hardware Infrastructure Support (Per Centre)			
1) Desktop Computer	1	➤ Upto ₹60,000/-	5 yrs
2) Multipurpose Printer(Only Black & White) Cum-Scanner-Photocopier-FAX Machine	1	➤ Upto ₹25,000/-	
3) UPS	1	➤ Upto ₹3200/-	
4) Handheld device with geotagging facilities	1	➤ Upto ₹7000/-	
B) Software Support (Per Centre)			
1) MS Office	1	➤ Upto ₹20,700/-	5 yrs
2) Internet Connection		Yearly Subscription of	Annual (Recurrent)
a) Computer	1	➤ Upto ₹12,000/-	
b) Handheld simcard	1	➤ Upto ₹6000/-	
C) Remuneration of contractual employee per centre (level of Data Entry Operator)	1	➤ 1 DEO per centre @₹16,500 per month (₹16,500x 12 months)	Annual (Recurrent)
D) Other Expenses such as maintenance of IT hardware infrastructures, necessary upgrade/anti-virus, etc., subject to the condition that they were acquired through grants under the Scheme.		➤ Upto ₹9600/- per centre	5 yrs

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E) Conducting Workshop/ Seminar/Conference for Price collection and Price reporting (per State/UT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upto ₹50,000/- for States/UTs having upto 5 price reporting centres ➤ Upto ₹1,00,000/- for States/UTs having more than 5 price reporting centres 	Annual
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- i) For existing centres, for which State/UT has availed non-recurrent grant in the past, State Government /UT administration may send proposals for new components as below:
 - a) Handheld device with geotagging facilities: Upto ₹7000/- per centre
 - b) Simcard for handheld device at (a) above: Upto ₹6000/- per centre.
 - c) Remuneration of contractual employee (Data Entry Operator): @ ₹16,500/- per month per centre.
- ii) For new centres as well as for existing centres for which State/UT have not availed grants earlier, the State government/UT administration may send proposals for both recurrent and non-recurrent components.
- iii) Once a centre is equipped with non-recurrent components as per the Scheme, State/UT Government may send proposal only for the recurrent components for these existing centres every year.
- iv) State/UT Government may also send their plan and proposal for conducting Workshop/Seminar/Conference.

2.2. Terms and Conditions for release of Grants to States/UTs:

- (i) Grants will be released only through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS).
- (ii) The grant for each component will be released by this Department after the proposal, complete in all respects as per the Guidelines, is received and the same is approved by the Competent Authority.
- (iii) All IT hardware will be procured by the State/UT Government as per prescribed procedure.

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- (iv) The Computer assets acquired with grants under this Scheme shall be disposed off by the State/UT Government without taking prior approval.
- (v) The proposal for grant of recurring expenditure (remuneration of contractual DEO and internet connection to Computer and Handheld Device) for each centre for succeeding financial year is to be submitted to this Department between January to March every year.
- (vi) The Utilization Certificate (UC) has to be submitted to this Department within the stipulated period as permitted under GFR. To avail of grants at para 2.1(D), State Government /UT administration shall certify that the hardware was acquired through grants under the Scheme.
- (vii) Subsequent grants under the Scheme shall be provided only after the UC for previous grants released under the Scheme are received.
- (viii) No funds will be utilized for purposes other than for which funds have been released.

2.3 Competent authority for approval of new centres:

Economic Adviser, D/o Consumer Affairs is the competent authority for approving establishment of new centres in the State/UTs.

3. Strengthening of PMC at the Centre: An amount of ₹50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh only) under the annual budget earmarked for PMC will be utilised for:

- a) Strengthening of PMC at the Centre/NIC;
- b) Conducting Zonal Workshop/Seminar/Conference/Training by PMC, DOCA;
- c) Commissioning of Studies.

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