

Curtain raiser

Department of Consumer Affairs is organizing one day National Workshop on Legal Metrology Act, 2009 on 9th May, 2022, which will be presided by Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

2. Hon'ble Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Environment, Forest & Climate Change Shri Ashwini Choubey Ji and Hon'ble Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Rural Development Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti Ji will also grace the occasion and address the participants.

3. The workshop will be participated by all stake holders comprising of Hon'ble Minister, Secretaries, Controllers of Legal Metrology of State Governments, Industries, VCOs etc. A keen interest is observed among the participants for the said workshop.

4. The purpose of this workshop is to take deliberations from all stake holders on the issue of decriminalization of Legal Metrology Act, 2009 keeping a balance in consumers and industries. Decriminalization of Legal Metrology Act, 2009 is being considered for ease of doing business by removing unnecessary interference.

5. The Key issues for consideration of decriminalization of Legal Metrology Act, 2009 are:

- (i) Decrease the burden on businesses and inspire confidence amongst the investors;
- (ii) Focus on economic growth and protection of consumer interest
- (iii) Mens rea (malafide/ criminal intent) plays an important role in imposition of criminal liability – therefore, it is critical to evaluate nature of non-compliance i.e. fraud as compared to negligence or inadvertent omission; and
- (iv) Habitual offenders for repetition of non-compliance

6. The objective of National Workshop on Legal Metrology is to engage with the stakeholders from business & industry, Ministries of Government of India and State Governments to ensure that the consumer is not short shifted by way of use of non-standard weights & measures and incorrect disclosure without increasing the burden on businesses and hindering economic growth. The purpose of this workshop is stakeholder's consultation to identify the success by decriminalizing the Legal Metrology Act to facilitate Ease of Doing Business and to protect the interest of consumers.