

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

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National Consultation Meeting of Ministers of States/UTs in-charge of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs held on 21ST May, 2016.

ACTION PLAN

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 1½ Month (April to July) gradually reduces to 15 days.
		Milled Dal	1 Month (April to July)
		15 Days (August to March)	15 Days
Traders	Milled Dal	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.

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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.
