



ALL INDIA FAIR PRICE SHOP DEALERS' FEDERATION

Regd. No. District East/Society/273-2011 of Govt. of NCT. of Delhi

Regd. Office : S-562, School Block, 'AKHAND HINDUSTHAN BHAWAN' Shakarpur, Delhi – 110 092, Mobile : 98110 12241 / 9871421221

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Ref. No. : AIFPSDF/117/24

Dated : 09.02.2024

A Comprehensive Outcome of the meetings with Shri Piyush Goyal Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister, Commerce & Industries, Textiles and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of India, Shri Sanjeev Chopra Ji, Union Secretary, Smt. Anita Karn, Union Joint Secretary, Shri Suneel Sachdeva & others Official of Food & Public Distribution Department, Govt. of India on 05.02.2024, 06.02.2024 & 07.02.2024 respectively.

As per appointments kindly granted by Shri Piyush Goyal Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister, Commerce & Industries, Textiles and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of India, Shri Sanjeev Chopra Ji, Union Secretary, Food & Public Distribution Department, Govt. of India and Smt. Anita Karn Ji, Joint Secretary (BP, PD & NFSA), Food & Public Distribution Department, Govt. of India on 05.02.2024, 06.02.2024 & 07.02.2024 respectively thanks to the kind initiative taken by Respected Dr. Subhash Ramarao Bhamre Ji, Hon'ble Member – of – Parliament, Lok Sabha and former Minister – of – State, Ministry of Defence.

We are grateful to our Maharashtra State Unit under the leadership of its President, Shri D. N. Patil for kindly coming forward to ensure necessary arrangements for the above – referred Meetings.

- (1) Relating to our Demands for ensuring viability by increasing Margins were discussed and we were informed that no immediate steps might be possible before the Parliament Elections which is at the doorstep but will surely be considered after the Election if the NDA Govt. comes to power.
- (2) Regarding our complaint about – increasing the Budgetary provisions for FPS Dealer's Margin, we were informed that the matter would be reviewed after the new Govt. comes to power.

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(3) In so far as our Demand relating to increasing the Margins was concerned, Hon'ble Union Food Minister was pleased to inform that the Union Govt. is trying to supply more and more essential items at subsidized rates through Fair Price Shops so as to increase their viability. In the meantime, Bharat Chana Dal, Bharat Moong Dal, Bharat Atta, Bharat Rice, Bharat Wheat etc. have already been started supplying and we were advised to inform our State Units to get in touch with NAFED, NCCF & KENDRIYA BHANDAR etc. for immediate lifting & distribution on behalf of All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation.

It is further informed relating to sale of Non – PDS items from the Fair Price Shops, we were told by the Hon'ble Minister that the Union Govt. has already intimated to the State Govts. & Union Territories about their no – objection in selling any Non – PDS items including Bharat Chana Dal, Bharat Moong Dal, Bharat Atta, Bharat Rice, Bharat Wheat etc. from the Fair Price Shops.

All the State Units have to take separate GST Nos. on behalf of our Federation and must maintain State – wise accounts.

(4) For minimising the harassments due to technical snags during distribution of Ration biometrically, we were informed that State Govts. / Union Territories have already been advised to follow the procedure for supplying Ration by inserting Aadhar Numbers.

(5) Regarding Handling Loss, it was claimed that the responsibility in this regard lies with the State Govts. & Union Territories but after our insistence, the matter was promised to be considered after Lok Sabha Election.

(6) We were informed that in consideration of our Demand No. (6) i.e. supply of LPG Cylinders through FPS Network, the matter will be taken up with the Petroleum Ministry, Govt. of India who will be informed that the Union Food Ministry has no objection if supply of non – subsidized LPG Cylinders through Fair Price Shops is initiated, supply of subsidized LPG Cylinders may not be possible as it would affect the business of the existing LPG Dealers.

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[3]

(7) In so far as Demand No. (7) i.e. Maintenance of Manual Registers, the Hon'ble Food Minister kindly felt embarrassed that in spite of his direction, action in this regard has not yet been taken by his Department. He, however, instructed immediate compliance within a fortnight.

In this regard, we requested the Union Govt. kindly to consider amending the relevant provisions of the Central PDS Order.

(8) Regarding our Demand No. (8) relating to violation of provisions of the Central PDS Control Order by some State Govts., the Federation was requested to forward specific cases on provision vis – a – vis State – wise manner.

(9) Regarding our Demand No. (9), we were advised that Rice was invariably being supplied in Jute Bags but due to paucity of jute bags, some portion of Wheat were being supplied in HDPE Bags and the State Units were requested to contact the Jute Industries / Jute Mills in this regard so that requirement of Jute bags may be fulfilled by them.

(10) We were informed that re – assessment of the NFSA coverage would be possible only after the next census.

(11) Regarding the “Transformation of Fair Price Shops” we were requested to forward specific causes where State Govts. & Union Territories were not going ahead with the policy of Transformation of Fair Price Shops.

The Union Food Department was trying to contact the ONGC and other Ministries and added that our Federation would also take similar initiative in the matter.

(12) Regarding imposition of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) by Maharashtra State Govt., we were informed that the matter would be looked into by the Central Govt.

(13) Regarding the Demand for special benefits for the Dealers in Hilly area like Darjeeling in West Bengal, we were informed that the matter would not be considered immediately.

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Shri Rabindra Nath Ganguly (West Bengal)

[4]

(14) Regarding the planning of the Punjab Govt. to convert NFSA Wheat into Atta and distribute through other agencies other than Fair Price Shops, we were informed that the matter would be looked into since there was no such provision in the National Food Security Act.

(15) The Union Food Department was requested to look into the matter for immediate remedial measure so as to ensure due Margins to the FPS Dealers of Punjab & Chandigarh as provided for in the NFSA.

(16) We placed our difficulties in supplying NFSA foodgrains in Bags containing photographs, Message & Signature of the Hon'ble Prime Minister because it could lead to legal and operational complication before the ensuing Elections.

It would be in the fitness of things to start such venture after the Elections and with our viabilities favourably looked into.

Discussions have been free & fair and assurances have been given to look into our point – wise Demands within the next 15 (fifteen) days with intimation to Hon'ble Union Food Minister and our Federation so let us keep our fingers crossed and hope for the best.

D. N. PATIL
Vice – President

BISWAMBHAR BASU
National General Secretary

NOTE : Please ignore our previous Memo under No. AIFPSDF/112/24 dated 08.02.2024.