

No. 1(2)/2020-SP-I
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Department of Food & Public Distribution

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 24 March, 2020

To

1. Chief Secretaries,
(of All State Governments)
2. Administrators of all UT Administrations.

Subject: Review of prices of essential commodities.

Sir/ Madam,

A meeting of Committee of Secretaries (CoS) was held under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary on 23rd March, 2020 on the above subject.

2. This Department, vide letter of even number dated 21.3.2020 (copy enclosed), has already requested the State Governments/ UT Administrations to take appropriate measures to ensure the availability of Ethyl alcohol/ Ethanol/ ENA to the manufacturers of hand sanitizers in order to contain Corona Virus/ Covid 19.

3. Since availability of sanitizers and its prices needs to be monitored for its smooth supply, State Governments/ UT Administrations are requested to ensure adherence to the recommendations made in the CoS meeting, which are as follows:

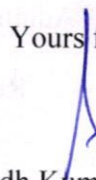
- i) JS (Sugar), D/o Food & Public Distribution; and D/o Consumer Affairs may coordinate with the alcohol distilleries; Excise Commissioners and Drug Controllers in States to start manufacture of sanitizers through alcohol distilleries expeditiously. States may be advised to give all necessary permissions without delay. States may also be asked to waive the 300% excise duty on ethanol used for the purpose of making sanitizers. Supply of sanitizer in bulk to State and Central Government hospitals at low rates may be negotiated with the distilleries.
- ii) Secretary, D/o Consumer Affairs and JS (Sugar), D/o Food & Public Distribution may coordinate with States to ensure that functioning of bottling plants for sanitizers is allowed to continue unhindered and all new permissions to be expeditiously granted.
- iii) JS (Sugar) in D/o Food & Public Distribution may coordinate between deodorant manufacturers and sanitizer manufacturers/ distilleries to further address the shortage of sanitizer bottles/ pumps.
- iv) In view of the urgency, States may be pursued to waive inspection requirements and other formalities for starting production of sanitizers and other equipment. The States may be asked to give post facto approval for such facilities. Secretary, M/o Pharmaceuticals may coordinate with States and stakeholders.

Contd..-

4. State Governments/ UT Administrations are requested to expedite all necessary permissions, as recommended by CoS; and waive the excise duty on ethanol, if any, for manufacturing of sanitizers.
5. State Governments/ UT Administrations are also requested to exempt raw material production for hand sanitizers/ ethanol, including packing material from lockdown and restrictions on transport including inter-state transport.
6. This may be treated as "Most Urgent".

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above.


24.3.20
(Subodh Kumar Singh)
Joint Secretary (Sugar & Admn.)
E-mail: js-sugar@gov.in

Copy to:


1. Principal Secretaries of Cane/ Excise/ Industries/ Health Departments of States.
2. State Drug Controllers.
3. Indian Sugar Mills Association.
4. All India Distillers Association.
5. Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (Tel. 0129-4289000/4061151)

Copy also to:

Central Nodal Officers to the States for management of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19).

Copy for information to:

1. Secretary, D/o Food & Public Distribution
2. Secretary, D/o Consumer Affairs
3. Secretary, D/o Petroleum & Natural Gas
4. Secretary, D/o Pharmaceuticals
5. Secretary, D/o Health and Family Welfare
6. Addl. Secretary (Shri A. Giridhar), Cabinet Secretariat.
7. Prime Minister's Office (Shri Shrikar Pardeshi, JS)


(Subodh Kumar Singh)
Joint Secretary (Sugar & Admn.)
E-mail: js-sugar@gov.in