



BASAI News Updates

August 13, 2022

Centre makes disclosure of pulses stocks mandatory

Zia Haq

zia.haq@htfive.com

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Friday invoked the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to make it mandatory for traders to disclose all stocks of tur or arhar (pigeon pea), a common pulses variety, to thwart inflation in the price of the food commodity ahead of the upcoming festival season, according to an official notification.

State governments have also

been directed to ensure stockholders and large traders upload data of tur stocks held by them to an online monitoring portal of the department of consumer affairs on a weekly basis, the notification said.

The ex-mill prices of tur have risen about 18% over the past month, according to official data, and heavy monsoon has damaged tur crops in some states, prompting the Centre to be watchful.

The total area under pulses

sown so far has been 4% lower year-on-year as on August 12, according to official sowing data. The acreage under tur is lagging by nearly 11%, the data showed.

Retail inflation cooled for the third straight month, led by a decline in prices of food items, as the Consumer Price Index inflation stood at 6.71% in July compared to 7.01% in June, according to official data released on Friday.

"There are reports that some

sections of stockists and traders are resorting to restricted sales in an attempt to create artificial scarcity to push the price upward," the consumer affairs ministry said.

According to the consumer affairs ministry,

There is sufficient The overall availability of pulses is sufficient, according to the consumer affairs ministry and the government has about 3.8 million tonne of pulses in federally held stocks, which are being released

in the market to cool prices.

Slow progress in kharif sowing of tur because of excess rainfall has been reported from major producers Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. "The Centre is closely watching the overall availability and prices of pulses in the domestic as well as overseas markets to take necessary preemptive measures in the event of an unwarranted price rise in the upcoming high demand festival months," an official said.

Farmers on warpath, AAP govt releases ₹100 cr arrears

RAJMEET SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 12

To mollify sugarcane farmers agitating over non-payment of dues, the AAP government in Punjab on Friday released Rs 100 crore against the dues pending with cooperative sugar mills. However, the farmers, who have blocked the Jalandhar-Phagwara National Highway, said their

protest was against non-payment of dues to private sugar mills and threatened to step up their stir.

The farmers are on a dharna outside Golden Sandhar Sugar Mill, Phagwara. The CM, while announcing that a sum of Rs 100 crore had been deposited in the accounts of the farmers, said arrears amounting to Rs 295.60 crore

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Farmers on warpath, AAP govt releases ₹100 cr arrears

had to be paid to cane growers by the government/cooperative sugar mills. Of this amount, Rs 100 crore was paid by the government on July 29, this year. Mann said of the remaining arrears totalling Rs 195.60 crore, he had promised the farmers that a sum of Rs

100 crore would be paid by August 15 and Rs 95.60 crore cleared by September 7.

“The private sugar mills, except the Phagwara sugar mill, have assured us that they will clear the farmers’ arrears by September 7,” the CM added.

Plywood factory owners protest FIRs over use of 'subsidised' urea

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

YAMUNANAGAR, AUGUST 12

The owners of the plywood factories of Yamunanagar district have lodged a protest against the registration of FIRs against the owners of plywood factories in connection with the adverse report of samples of the technical grade urea.

The factory owners today met Deputy Commissioner Parth Gupta at his office, here, demanding action against the suppliers in such cases where the sample reports of technical grade urea are adverse, instead of taking action against factory owners.

The authorities of the Haryana Agriculture and the Farmers Welfare Department, Yamunanagar, got three separate FIRs registered against the owners of three plywood factories recently, when a report of 15 samples of technical grade urea showed that six



Plywood factory owners meet Deputy Commissioner Parth Gupta at his office in Yamunanagar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

of these had neem oil content.

The subsidised agriculture grade urea (neem-coated urea) can be used only for agriculture purposes. The plywood and other industries can use only technical grade urea and other chemicals to prepare adhesives, including glue.

JK Bihani, president, Haryana Plywood Manufacturer Association, who led the factory owners, said

recently, three FIRs had been lodged by the authorities of the Agriculture Department, Yamunanagar, against plywood factory owners, on receiving failure report of technical grade urea from stitched bags. He said it was unfair to hold the factory owners accountable for adverse report of the samples.

"The factory owners them-

selves are a victim of the conspiracy. They purchase technical grade urea from a registered dealer, who has supply source of import or the Indian manufacturer. Especially, when urea samples are taken from a stitched/sealed bag lying in the stock of a plywood manufacturer, the factory owner should not be held responsible for any adverse report," said JK Bihani.

THE ISSUE

- The subsidised agriculture grade urea (neem-coated urea) can be used only for agriculture purposes
- The plywood and other industries can use only technical grade urea and other chemicals to prepare adhesives, including glue
- The rate of the technical grade urea is much higher than that of the agriculture grade urea



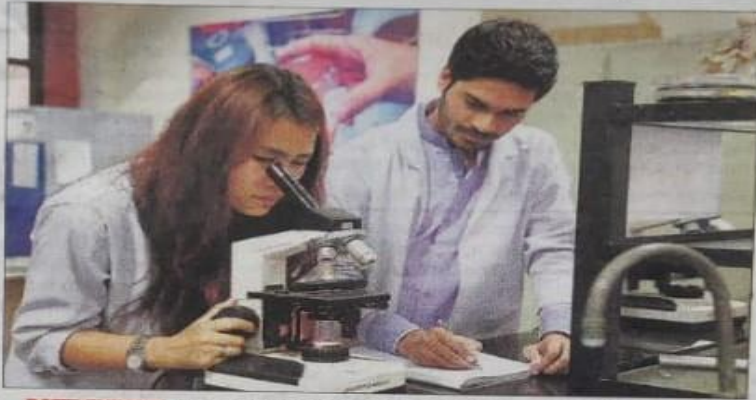
Biological Agri Solutions Association of India

Spur scientific research

Scientists should be allowed to work without political interference



DINESH C SHARMA
SCIENCE COMMENTATOR



BOTTLENECKS: Resource crunch has affected scientific research in India. FILE PHOTO

Inculcation of scientific temper needs to be brought back on public agenda to counter pseudoscience & obscurantism.

National Planning Committee (NPC). Subhas Chandra Bose, as the Congress president in 1938, had formed NPC and named Jawaharlal Nehru its chairman. After 1947, the sectoral reports of the NPC paved the way for industrialisation as well as development based on application of S&T to solve basic problems in health, food and nutrition, housing, energy, infrastructure etc. The era of 'revolutions' — Green Revolution, White Revolution, Blue Revolution, Yellow Revolution etc — helped India become self-sufficient in key sectors and overcome shortages. National laboratories under various research councils developed the necessary know-how, technology and techniques, and successfully disseminated them. Given the pressure on available resources for development projects in several sectors at the same time, help was sought from international sources such as the UN agencies and through bilateral agreements. The vision from the beginning was the application of S&T for national development. This applied even to a high technology area like space too, as reflected in the use of satellite commu-

nication for education, remote sensing, weather forecasting etc.

The continued focus on public investment in scientific research over the decades helped India develop indigenous capability which helped the country face new challenges from time to time. For example, the development and manufacturing capabilities that gave us the Covid-19 vaccines, and the health system that successfully delivered the vaccines to one billion people, are a result of the early investments in national research system and linkages it built with the industry. The communication, software, information technology, outsourcing, supercomputing and digital revolutions seen in the past three decades are not just a result of economic liberalisation or pro-market policies, but a fruit of the state policy and the vision of creating institutions like the IITs, IIMs, IITDs and NITs. Specialised mission-oriented agencies like the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) have played a stellar role. All this does not mean that every-

thing is fine with the STI system. There are several issues that demand urgent action, as we chart our path to the future. Some areas were either neglected or marginalised in terms of investment and policy support. For instance, India was among the first countries globally to have a dedicated department (later ministry) for the promotion of renewable energy: Electric mini-buses used to operate in the national capital in the 1980s, pilot projects were funded for community-based biogas plants, grid-independent solar energy, smokeless *chulhas* etc. But R&D investment remained sub-optimal and policy support to mainstream renewables was missing. Another example is semiconductor design and fabrication where we took an early lead but faltered on the way.

A major issue is of stagnating R&D funding over the years. While it has gone up in absolute terms, but as a percentage of GDP, it is almost static at below one per cent. In contrast, China spends about 2.2 per cent of its GDP on R&D. The research funding in the private sector in India is almost negligible. In the past few years, even government laboratories are facing a resource crunch. The research system, industry and academia linkages are still a distant dream. India has a large S&T bureaucracy with a plethora of scientific ministries, departments and funding agencies. And most of them work in silos, resulting in delays, duplication and avoidable expenditure. The proposed National Research Foundation should be given necessary mandate to change the situation.

While the government needs to adequately fund scientific research, scientists and research bodies should enjoy relative freedom and autonomy with no political interference. The national STI system needs to be geared to focus on research in strategic areas like climate change, energy transition, sustainability, new materials, mobility, food security, health and medical research. Above all, inculcation of scientific temper needs to be brought back on public agenda to counter the threat posed by pseudoscience and obscurantism. Along with the thrust on improving the quality of science education,



Biological Agri Solutions Association of India

**SOCIETY FOR CREATION OF HEAVEN
ON EARTH (SCHE)**

Village Tepla, Post Saha,
District Ambala – 133104 (Haryana)

Invites applications for Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ambala, for the post of:

Subject Matter Specialist (Animal Science)

Job responsibilities include providing advisory services to farmers; organising field days; formulating and conducting training courses; developing extension literature; establishing and maintaining demonstration units as models for farmers to replicate; and developing linkages with district and state administrations, developmental agencies and media. The job involves extensive field visits.

Pay Scale: Rs. 56100-177500/- in the 7th Pay Matrix Level 10 (G.P. 5400/-)

Qualification: M.Sc. (Animal Science/Veterinary Science) from a recognized university.

Desirable: Minimum two years experience in KVK or agricultural extension and a good knowledge of computer applications.

Age Limit: 35 years (Relaxation as per ICAR Rules)

The application form supported with self-attested documents and a passport size photograph may be sent to the undersigned by registered post on SCHE address within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. A demand draft for Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) as non-refundable processing fee drawn in favour of Society for Creation of Heaven on Earth (SCHE) and payable at Ambala Cantt, should be attached with the application form.

Note:- The applicant should refer to the website (ambala.kvk2.in) for qualification/experience details and application form for above post. Selected candidate will be appointed on a contract basis for two years, including a six-months probation. Contracts may be renewed depending on work performance. As this is a contractual position, the selected candidate will not be eligible for medical allowance, study leave, LTC or any other allowances or benefits apart from those mentioned in the contract.

The Society reserves the right to take the final decision.

Senior Scientist & Head



Biological Agri Solutions Association of India

**Planning Department, Yojna Bhawan
Himachal Pradesh Shimla – 171002**

**Notice inviting nominations for
HP State Innovation Awards, 2021-2022**
Last Date for submission of proposals extended up
to 30th September 2022

In continuation of previous notice published in this newspaper on 7th June 2022, the last date for inviting nominations under HP State Innovation Award Scheme for the year 2021-22 from NGOs, Private Organizations, Individuals, Government Departments, Corporations, Boards, etc., is hereby extended up to **30th September, 2022**

Hence, interested innovators may apply on the prescribed format on or before 30th September, 2022. Other terms & conditions for applying under said scheme will remain same as were mentioned in earlier notice. The proposals in the prescribed format fulfilling the qualifying criteria alongwith authentication certificates are to be sent to the Adviser (Planning), Yojna Bhawan, H.P. Secretariat, Shimla-2 in three hard copies or through email: ppo-plg-hp@nic.in before the closing date.

Prescribed format, qualifying criteria, authentication certificate and other relating information regarding Innovation Award Scheme is available on HP Planning Department website and URL: <http://planning.hp.gov.in/plgstateinnodivnew.aspx> or contact Sh. Surender Paul, Joint Director, Planning Department on telephone No.0177-2620977.

(Dr. Basu Sood)
Advisor Planning
H.P., Shimla-2