

XIV. WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Strengthening of Weights and Measures (Rs. 120.00 lacs)

The law relating to Weights & Measures is contained in the Standards of Weights & Measures Act 1976 and the rules made there under including the Standards of Weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules 1977 and the Standards of Weights & Measures (Enforcement) Act 1985. The scheme of the law envisages registration of users of Weights & Measures who use any weight or measure in any transaction or for industrial production or for protection. Protection means the utilization of any Weight or measure or any reading obtained with the help of any weight or measure for the purpose of determining whether or not any step is required to be taken to safeguard the well-being of any human being or animal or to protect any commodity or vegetation or thing whether individually or collectively.

While owing to opposition from the trade the provisions relating to registration of users in terms of the rules made under the Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act 1985 have not been enforced in many States in India including Delhi. The number of such users who are required to get their Weights and Measures verified and re-verified from time to time has increased from an estimated 3,20,000 cases per annum as on 31.3.90 to 6,85,000 cases per annum as on 31.3.2001. Of the above cases taxi meters and tank lorries are tested/calibrated at the taximeter unit in Mall Road-Khyber Pass and in the tanker calibration unit at BPC Punjabi Bagh. The remaining Weights & Measures are required to be verified/re-verified at any one of the 8 zones whose local jurisdictions have been defined taking into consideration the workload involved in each zone. Originally each zone used to have the services of at least one Jr. Metrological Asstt. but owing to the lapse of posts of the Jr. Metrological Asstt. and Sr. Metrological Asstt. it has not been possible to provide the services of even one Jr. Metrological Asstt. for each Zone. On the Other hand the workload in each zone has increased about three times during the period 1997 to 2001. This has resulted in the field staff being deployed for laboratory work in each Zone. In the main laboratory at Wazirpur that serves as the reference laboratory for re-calibration of working standards the technical staff posted consists of only 1 Jr. Metrological Asstts. For want of technical

personnel not even one Jr.Metrological Asstt. is at present deployed in the tanker calibration unit and only 3 Jr.Metrological Asstts. are deployed in the taxi meter unit. It is necessary to strengthen the technical establishment in such a manner that the routine work of certification and re-certification of the Weights & Measures of the users assuming that the provision of such certification and re-certification is entrusted only to properly trained technical staff and the non-technical establishment is mainly deployed to detect cases of contravention of the law relating to Weights & Measures and to take further action in accordance with law against such contravention. It is also necessary to provide for sufficient number of senior Officers for dealing with the deciding cases of composition u/s 65 of the Standards of Weights & Measures (Enforcement) Act 1985 and to maintain record of cases of first offences so as to deal with the cases of second and subsequent offences by the same users more stringently in accordance with the said Act.

It is also necessary to computerize the database relating to users whose Weights & Measures are certified/re-certified from time to time and information relating to users who have been convicted or whose cases have been compounded from time to time. The department has undertaken a study on computerization of Weights & Measures through NIC. The draft report has been submitted. An amount of Rs.30.00 lacs has been proposed by them for the first phase of computerization.

Further Director Legal Metrology, Govt. of India has suggested that adequate provisions should be made in 10th five year plan for (1) Strengthening of Standard Laboratories (2) Strengthening of Enforcement activities with reference to verification of Weighbridges by providing testing kits (3) Creation of enforcement wing in the states for net content checking at factory premises and (4) Verification of Clinical Thermometers.

Keeping above targets in view the department has placed orders for purchase of certain standard balances costing approximately Rs.10 lacs.

Maintenance of accuracy of the Weighbridges is of prime importance to the economy of the country and therefore it is proposed that one mobile van fitted with crane and higher denomination weights be maintained for ensuring the accuracy of the Weighbridges.

One of the important functions of the Weights & Measures department is to check the net contents in a package so as to ensure the correct quantity of the commodity in the package. The teams so deputed to inspect the premises of the manufacturers are proposed to be provided a set of testing kits costing about Rs 2 lakhs and consisting of weighing instruments programmed to the needs fitted with the printer etc. Similarly adequate facilities for verification of the clinical thermometers need to be set up and cost of equipments required shall be about Rs 3 lakhs for one set.

Some of the Zonal Offices are at present functioning at premises, which are inadequate for the purposes for which Zonal Offices have been established. A sum of Rs. 8.00 lacs has already been committed for the acquisition of lands and construction of buildings for the Zonal Offices at Vishwas Nagar and Tilak Nagar. The work in question is in progress but it is anticipated that there may be some escalation of cost involved.

The following additional technical posts consisting of 5 Sr.Metrological Asstts., 18 all posts of Jr. Metrological Asstts. and 7 posts of Laboratory Asstts are proposed to be created:

S.M.A.	05	Pay Scale - 5500-9000
J.M.A.	18	Pay Scale - 4500-7000
Lab. Asstt.	7	Pay Scale - 3050-4590
Data Entry Operator	11	Pay Scale - 4000-6000

Construction of buildings at Tilak Nagar for accommodating the Zonal Office at Raja Garden and tanker calibration unit, and construction of Buildings at Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara for accommodating the Zonal Offices of Laxmi Nagar and Shadara are yet to be started. The PWD has already been approached for construction work and Plans are likely to be ready shortly. Matter of Vishwas Nagar has also been taken up with DSIDC.

An amount of Rs. 120 lakh is approved for Annual Plan 2004-05 for strengthening of Weights & Measures Department which includes Rs. 40 lakh on Capital Account, Rs. 30 lakh for computerization of Weights & Measures and Rs. 50 lakh for meeting the salary component of the new staff proposed to be created.