

15.7 WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

A. Overview

The concept of Consumer Protection has gathered momentum and attained importance in the present day society. The Government's endeavor is to ensure cent percent accuracy in the Weights and Measures used by every trader in the business transactions in the State. Towards this end, the Weights and Measures Wing of the Labour Department carries out verification and stamping of all weights and measures articles in the State and calibration of petroleum tanks in the State. The Controller of Legal Metrology is entrusted with the responsibility of enforcing standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Act, 1977 and Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985. The Controller of the Legal and Metrology is assisted by 9 Additional Controllers of Legal Metrology, 28 Deputy Controllers of Legal Metrology. Apart from this there are 101 Stamping Inspectors for attending to the work of verification of stamping of weights and measures used by traders in the State. All these Stamping Inspectors have been provided with necessary machineries and equipments required for carrying out their day to-day activities.

In the context of liberalisation it is felt desirable to simplify the forms and registers to be maintained and to reduce the number of Inspections. However, severe penalty would be imposed in the case of default.

B. Tenth Five Year Plan

The main functions of the Labour department are settlement of industrial disputes, enforcement of various labour laws and the administration of welfare schemes for the workers. Another area of operation is in consumer protection by enforcing the Weights and Measures Act. The total cost of schemes / programmes included in the Tenth Five Year Plan amounts to Rs.10.58 crores, of which an amount of Rs.6.80 crores has been proposed for strengthening of Weights and Measures Enforcement machinery. The details are as follows:

(Rs. in crores)		
Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Outlay (2002-07)
	Strengthening of Weights and Measures Enforcement machinery	
1	Creation of Enforcement wing for the Net Content Checking at Factory Premises (as suggested by GOI, Ministry of Civil Supplies) with 9 posts of Inspectors of Labour with supporting staff for seven regions	2.50
2	Strengthening of Enforcement with regard to verification of Weighbridges by providing testing kits with supporting staff	0.25
3	Verification of Clinical Thermometers, Water Meters and Auto Meters	0.40
4	Strengthening of Weights and Measures Machinery with supporting staff (Squad)	0.30
5	Formation of Consumer Protection Cell	0.32
6	Strengthening of Working Standard Laboratories in the State	3.03
	Total - Weights and Measures	6.80

C. Annual Plan 2002-03 and 2003-04

No outlay has been proposed for the year 2002-03 and 2003-04

D. Annual Plan 2004-05

For the year 2004-05 two new schemes, namely replacement of existing 10 manually operated working standard physical balance into digital type working standard balances at a cost of Rs.30 lakhs and purchase of one mobile wagon fitted with crane and testing kits for verification and inspection of weigh bridges at a cost of Rs.7.90 lakhs, have been approved. The total outlay for Weights and Measures sector budgeted was Rs.37.90 lakhs for the year 2004-05. The anticipated expenditure for 2004-05 is Rs.37.98 lakhs.

Annual Plan 2005-06

In the year 2005-06 Budget, a token provision of Rs.0.07 lakhs is made towards the cost of salaries of the Instrument Mechanic and Wagon Driver and the cost of fuel for the Wagon. But, since the scheme itself has been dropped the amount of Rs.7000/- now provided will also be surrendered in due course.