

Essential food commodities

CCP initiates inquiry into rising prices

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has initiated a country-wide inquiry into the possible anti-competitive behaviour behind rising prices of essential food commodities in the informal sector.

The probe has been initiated after concerns were raised by the public and government that some undertakings in the informal food markets are manipulating supply and prices of the food products against the law and public interest.

It is pertinent to mention here that Federal Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar recently expressed his concerns regard-

ing the price hike seen in essential food commodities, particularly, fruits, vegetables, milk and pulses, during the National Price Monitoring Committee meeting held earlier this week.

In the first phase of the investigation, crucial information regarding undertakings that manipulate pricing and supply of abovementioned commodities is being gathered. In this regard, provinces and district administrations have been approached by the Commission and it is expected that CCP will soon have all the relevant information and data required to take strict action as per the Competition Act, 2010.

Through this investigation,

CCP will determine whether the price hike in the food commodities market is a result of anti competitive practice such as cartelization or abuse of dominance, or otherwise. Once the process is complete, CCP may impose substantial penalties on the undertakings involved in accordance with provisions of the Competition Act in order to protect consumers.

CCP is mandated by the Competition Act to enforce the prohibitions against anti competitive practices in all spheres of commercial and economic activities and to protect consumers from anti competitive behaviour.—PR

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CCP initiates probe into rising prices of food items

By A Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has initiated a country-wide inquiry into possible anti-competitive behaviour behind rising prices of essential food commodities in the informal sector.

The probe has been initiated after concerns were raised by the public and the government that some undertakings in the informal food markets are manipulating supply and prices of food products.

Even the Federal Finance Minister, Ishaq Dar, expressed concern over the price hike seen in essential food commodities, particularly, fruits, vegetables, milk and pulses, during the National Price Monitoring Committee meeting held earlier this week.

The CCP has decided that in the first phase of the investigation crucial information regarding undertakings that

manipulate pricing and supply of essential commodities is being gathered.

Provinces and district administrations have been approached by the Commission and it is expected that the CCP would soon have all relevant information and data required to take strict action as per the Competition Act, 2010.

A spokesman for the commission said that through this investigation, the CCP would determine whether the price hike in the food commodities market was due to anti-competitive practice, such as cartelisation or abuse of dominance or otherwise.

Once the process is complete, the CCP may impose substantial penalties on the undertakings involved in accordance with provisions of the Competition Act to protect consumers.

However, the challenging part for the CCP would be to establish flaws or manipulations in the supply chain for farm produce.

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Food commodities

CCP kicks off countrywide probe into price rise

Investigation comes in the wake of concerns about manipulation of supply and prices

OUR CORRESPONDENT
 ISLAMABAD

Soon after Finance Minister Ishaq Dar expelled an official from a meeting held to review the prices of commodities, the antitrust watchdog Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) – initiated a country-wide probe into possible collusion behind rising prices of essential food items in the informal sector.

Dar was unhappy with the performance of the CCP on the issue of checking cartels that were manipulating food prices

The probe has been initiated after concerns were raised by the public and the government

that individuals in informal food markets were manipulating the supply and prices of products against the law and public interest, according to a press release issued by the CCP.

It pointed out that Dar had expressed his concern over the increase in prices of essential food commodities, particularly fruits, vegetables, milk and pulses, during the National Price Monitoring Committee meeting held earlier this week.

An official of the Ministry of Finance said that Dar was unhappy with the performance of the CCP on the issue of checking cartels that were manipulating food prices. He asked the CCP representative to leave the meeting.

Under the law, monitoring of prices is a provincial subject and the PML-N government has failed to introduce legislation to bring necessary changes for strengthening the legal mechanism despite repeatedly showing the intention to bring a bill to parliament.

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CREATIVE COMMONS

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Through this investigation, the CCP will determine whether the price hike in the food commodities market is a result of anti-competitive practices such as cartelisation or

abuse of dominance. Once the process is completed, the CCP said it may impose substantial penalties on those involved in any unlawful acts.

The CCP has so far largely remained a toothless body and is unable to enforce its writ. It is financially dependent on the federal government.

On its part, the government did not make efforts to administratively strengthen the body. It kept positions of members of the commission and a permanent chairman vacant for a year and a half and only recently made these appointments.

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CCP starts probe into hike in commodities' prices

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has initiated a countrywide inquiry into the possible anti-competitive behaviour behind rising prices of essential food commodities in the informal sector.

Finally, the CCP has awakened to the injustice to the common man who is being unjustifiably fleeced with price hike of food commodities in the domestic market by launching countrywide inquiry in a bid to penalise those who were earning hefty profits at the cost of voiceless consumers.

According to CCP's announcement made here on Thursday, the probe has been initiated after concerns were shown by the public and government that some outfits in the informal food markets are manipulating supply and prices of the food products against the law and public interest.

It is pertinent to mention here that in the National Price Monitoring Committee meeting held earlier this week, Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar expressed his concerns regarding price hike in essential food commodities, particularly, fruits, vegetables, milk and pulses.

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Once the process is complete, CCP may impose substantial penalties on the undertakings involved in accordance with provisions of the Competition Act in order to protect consumers.

CCP is mandated by the Competition Act to enforce the prohibitions against anti competitive practices in all spheres of commercial and economic activities and to protect consumers from anti competitive behaviour

Price hike: CCP starts inquiry to identify culprits

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IMRAN ALI KUNDI
ISLAMABAD

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CCP initiates inquiry of commodities price hike

STAFF REPORTER

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مسابقتی کمیشن نے اشیائے خوراک
میں اضافے کی تفتیش شروع کر دی

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) مسابقتی کمیشن آف پاکستان (سی سی پی) نے بنیادی اشیائے خوراک کی قیمتوں میں اضافے پر تفتیش شروع کر دی ہے۔ یہ تفتیش عوام اور حکومت کی طرف سے اٹھائے گئے ان خدشات کے بعد شروع کی گئی کہ کچھ عناصر غیر رسمی نوڈ مارکیٹ میں اشیاء کی قیمتوں اور رسد کو قانون اور عوامی مفاد کے برخلاف حسب منشاء کنٹرول کر رہے ہیں۔ مسابقتی کمیشن کی جانب سے جمعرات کو یہاں جاری کئے گئے اعلامیہ کے مطابق ملکی سطح پر ممکنہ طور پر غیر مسابقتی رویے کے ذریعے غیر زرعی شعبے میں بنیادی اشیائے خوراک میں مہنگائی کے رجحان پر تفتیش شروع کی گئی ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر خزانہ سینیٹر اسحاق ڈار نے اسی ہفتے نیشنل پرائس مانیٹرنگ کمیٹی میں بنیادی اشیائے خوراک کی قیمتوں میں اضافے پر تفتیش کا اظہار کیا تھا۔

مسابقتی کمیشن نے اشیائے خوراک میں مہنگائی کے رجحان پر تفتیش شروع کر دی

اشیائے خوراک کی قیمتوں اور رسد پر ساز باز میں ملوث عناصر کی خلاف سخت کارروائی کی جائے گی

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) مسابقتی کمیشن پاکستان نے ملکی سطح پر ممکنہ طور پر غیر مسابقتی رویے کے ذریعے غیر رکی شیعے میں بنیادی اشیائے خوراک میں مہنگائی کے رجحان پر تفتیش شروع کر دی ہے۔ یہ تفتیش عوام اور حکومت کی طرف سے اٹھائے گئے ان خدشات کے بعد شروع کی گئی کہ کچھ عناصر غیر رکی فوڈ مارکیٹ میں اشیاء کی قیمتوں اور رسد کو قانون اور عوامی مفاد کے برخلاف حسب منشاء کنٹرول کر رہے ہیں۔ وفاقی وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار نے اسی ہفتے نیشنل پرائس مانیٹرنگ کمیٹی میں بنیادی اشیائے خوراک جیسے کہ پھل، بزیوں، دودھ اور

دالوں کی قیمتوں میں اضافے پر تشویش کا اظہار کیا تھا۔ تحقیقات کے پہلے مرحلے میں ان عناصر کے متعلق اہم معلومات اکٹھی کی جائیں گی جو کہ مہینہ طور پر بنیادی اشیائے خوراک کی قیمتوں اور رسد پر ساز باز کرنے میں ممکنہ طور پر شامل ہیں۔ اس سلسلے میں صوبائی حکومتوں اور ضلعی انتظامیہ سے رابطہ کیا گیا ہے اور مسابقتی کمیشن کے پاس جلد ہی تمام متعلقہ مواد اور اعداد و شمار اکٹھے ہو جانے کی امید ہے جس کی بنیاد پر وہ مسابقتی ایکٹ 2010 کے تحت ان عناصر کے خلاف سخت کارروائی عمل میں لاسکے گی۔

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کھانے پینے کی ضروری اشیاء مہنگی ہونے کی تحقیقات شروع

مسابقتی کمیشن کو جلد تمام متعلقہ مواد اور اعداد و شمار اکٹھے ہو جانے کی توقع، غیر مسابقتی سرگرمیوں پر بھاری جرمانے ہو سکتے ہیں

کراچی (کامرس ڈیسک) مسابقتی کمیشن پاکستان نے ملکی سطح پر ممکنہ طور پر غیر مسابقتی رویے کے ذریعے غیر رسمی شعبے میں بنیادی اشیاء خوراک میں مہنگائی کے رجحان پر تفتیش شروع کر دی ہے، یہ تفتیش عوام اور حکومت کی طرف سے اٹھائے گئے ان خدشات کے بعد شروع کی گئی کہ کچھ عناصر غیر رسمی فوڈ مارکیٹ میں اشیاء کی قیمتوں اور رسد کو قانون اور عوامی مفاد کے برخلاف حسب منشاء کنٹرول کر رہے ہیں، وفاقی وزیر خزانہ نے اسی ضمنے نیشنل پرائس مانیٹرنگ کمیٹی میں قیمتوں میں اضافے پر تفتیش کا اظہار کیا تھا، تحقیقات کے پہلے مرحلے میں ان عناصر کے متعلق اہم معلومات اکٹھی کی جائیں گی جو کہ مہینہ طور پر بنیادی اشیاء خوراک کی قیمتوں اور رسد پر ساز باز کرنے میں ممکنہ طور پر شامل ہیں، اس سلسلے میں صوبائی حکومتوں اور ضلعی انتظامیہ سے رابطہ کیا گیا ہے اور مسابقتی کمیشن کے پاس جلد ہی تمام متعلقہ مواد اور اعداد و شمار اکٹھے ہو جانے کی امید ہے جس کی بنیاد پر وہ مسابقتی ایکٹ 2010 کے تحت ان عناصر کے خلاف سخت کارروائی عمل میں لاسکے گی، اس تحقیق کے ذریعے مسابقتی کمیشن اس بات کا تعین کرے گا کہ بنیادی اشیاء خوراک کی مارکیٹ میں مہنگائی کا سبب غیر مسابقتی رویہ یعنی کہ گفٹ جوڑ اور بالادستی کا غلط استعمال ہے یا اس کی وجہ کچھ اور ہے۔