



Competition, Public Policy and Common Man

1000 hrs – 1805 hrs: Monday, 16th November 2009
Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

PROGRAMME

0900 – 1000 hrs : *Registration*

1000 – 1105 hrs : Inaugural Session

1000 – 1005 hrs : **Bouquet Presentation & Lighting of the Lamp**

1005 – 1010 hrs : **Welcome Remarks**

Mr Dhanendra Kumar
Chairperson
Competition Commission of India

1010 – 1020 hrs : **Special Address**

Justice Dr Arijit Pasayat
Hon'ble Chairman
Competition Appellate Tribunal

1020 – 1030 hrs : **Presidential Address**

Mr Salman Khurshid
Hon'ble Minister of Corporate Affairs &
Minority Affairs
Government of India

1030 – 1040 hrs : **Address by Special Invitee**

Ms Neelie Kroes
Hon'ble Commissioner for
Competition, European Commission

1040 – 1100 hrs : **Inaugural Address**

Mr Pranab Mukherjee
Hon'ble Minister of Finance
Government of India

1100 – 1104 hrs : **Concluding Remarks**

Mr Hari S Bhartia
Vice President
Confederation of Indian Industry

1104 – 1106 hrs : **Vote of Thanks**

Mr Chandrajit Banerji
Director General
Confederation of Indian Industry

1105 – 1115 hrs: **Tea Break**

1115-1245 hrs: Plenary Session I

Competition and Public Procurement Policy: Enhancing Value

Public procurement is a key economic activity of Government, accounting for about 15% of the GDP worldwide. The primary objective of an effective procurement policy is to obtain goods and services to achieve the maximum value for money, which is achieved through vigorous competition among suppliers. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) can play facilitative role in developing efficient public procurement programs. Competition advocacy needs to be buttressed by good enforcement through action against cases of bid rigging, collusive bidding or any other abusive conduct. Strict and proactive enforcement against bid rigging has promoted fair and free competition in public procurement in many countries and saved significant public resources by enhancing competition. In a country like India, saved public resources can be utilized to implement various welfare programmes for common man. Discussions during the session would focus inter-alia on the role of CCI in introducing fair and free competition in public procurement and enhancing value for public money.

1115 – 1130 hrs : Address by the Chairman

Mr Pratyush Sinha
Central Vigilance Commissioner
Government of India

1130 – 1145 hrs: Keynote Address by the Chief Guest

Mr K M Chandrasekhar
Union Cabinet Secretary
Government of India

1145 – 1235 hrs : Address

Mr William E Kovacic
Commissioner
Federal Trade Commission, USA

Dr J J Irani
Director
Tata Sons

Ms Lowri Evans
Deputy Director General-DG
Competition
European Commission

Ms Vilasini Ramachandran
Additional Secretary (Expenditure)
Department of Expenditure
Ministry of Finance
Government of India

Mr A N Chatterji
Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General
of India

1235 — 1245hrs : Interaction & Concluding Remarks by Session Chairman

1245 – 1345 hrs : Lunch Break

1345-1500 hrs: Plenary Session II
Competition and Sectoral Regulators: Synergising Regulation

In India, sector-specific regulators exist in many sectors such as capital markets, insurance, telecommunications, electricity, petroleum and natural gas, civil aviation etc. Competition regulations as well as sector-specific regulators aim to ensure efficiency as well as consumer welfare. Thus, their roles are intended to be complementary, although sectoral regulation is specific, while competition regulation is generic. Complementarity however between the two may suffer on account of conflict in laws or differences in interpretation. The interface between the Competition Commission and sectoral regulators is therefore critical. The Competition Policy as outlined in the Eleventh Five – Year Plan recognizes the importance of a formal mechanism for coordination between the Competition Commission and the sectoral regulators. Discussions in the session would focus on systemic shifts in policy towards achieving synergized regulation and exploring the linkages between competition and defining the potential of competition regulation as a catalyst for benefiting the common man across sectors.

Address by the Chairman

Mr Arun Maira

Member
Planning Commission

Panel Discussion

Mr Suman K Bery

Member
Economic Advisory Council to the
Prime Minister & Director General
National Council of Applied Economic
Research (NCAER)

Dr Pramod Deo

Chairperson
Central Electricity Regulatory
Commission (CERC)

Prof Allan Fels

Dean
Australian & New Zealand School of
Government & Former Chairman,
Australian Competition and Consumer
Commission (ACCC)

Prof Alberto Heimler

Professor
Italian School of Government and
Advisor to the Italian competition
Authority

1500 – 1515 hrs : Tea Break

1515 - 1645 hrs: Plenary Session III
Competition in Agricultural Markets: Advantage Farmer

Agriculture continues to enjoy dominant position in Indian economy with around 70% of the population still dependent on the sector. However, agricultural markets in India like other developing countries are characterized by market imperfections. Farmers do not get their due share due to presence of intermediaries, who corner most of the benefits. On the other hand, consumers pay more than what would be payable, if agriculture markets were competitive and efficient. There are two important dimensions to it viz. (i) creation of markets and (ii) rectification of asymmetries in information flow. There is tremendous scope to improve competition in agricultural markets through public policy changes and innovative measures, which in turn is likely to contribute to the welfare of farmer as well as consumer. The session would focus on identification of the constraints in operation of competitive forces as well as possible use of competition and its regulation as significant strategy to empower and enable the farmers to have greater access to agricultural markets and better prices.

1515 – 1525 hrs : Address by the Chairman

Prof Abhijit Sen
Member
Planning Commission

1525 – 1625 hrs : Panel Discussion

Dr Sudhir Kumar Goel
Principal Secretary (Cooperation and Marketing)
Department of Cooperation, Marketing and Textiles
Government of Maharashtra

Mr S Sivakumar
Chief Executive
Agri Business Division
ITC India Ltd.

Mr P Chengal Reddy
President
Federation of Farmers Association

Mr Sanjay Kaul
CMD & CEO
National Collateral Management Services Ltd.

Dr Ramesh Chand
National Professor (Agri)
National Centre for Agricultural Economic and Policy Research

1625—1645 hrs : Interaction & Concluding Remarks by Session Chairman

**1645-1805 hrs: Valedictory Session
Competition and the Common Man**

Competition is regarded as the fourth corner-stone of government economic policy framework, along with monetary, fiscal and trade policies. Competition can be a powerful tool to secure the proper and most efficient use of scarce resources, add to static and dynamic efficiency of economy, maximize economic growth and output and contribute to welfare of citizens. The critical role of competition in enhancing welfare of common man is amply borne out by the growth experience of India. Introduction of competition in many sectors such as telecommunications in the last few years has led to lowering of prices, better quality and wider choices for the consumers. In the long value chain, everybody tends to become a consumer somewhere. Apart from summarizing the proceedings in earlier sessions, this session would inter-alia focus on international experience about how competition has benefited common man and how India could learn from them

1645 – 1655 hrs : Address by the Chairman	Mr B K Chaturvedi Member Planning Commission
1655 —1705 hrs : Summary of recommendations	Dr Geeta Gouri Member Competition Commission of India
1705 – 1745 hrs : Panel Discussion	Mr R Bandyopadhyay Secretary Ministry of Corporate Affairs Mr Chris Jenkins Head of Competition Advocacy Office of Fair Trading,UK Mr William E Kovacic Commissioner Federal Trade Commission, USA Mr Ajay Shankar Secretary Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion Mr Niall Lynch Assistant Chief Antitrust Division US Department of Justice
1745 – 1800 hrs : Valedictory Address	Dr M Veerappa Moily Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice Government of India
1800 - 1805 hrs : Concluding Remarks & Vote of Thanks	Mr Dhanendra Kumar Chairperson Competition Commission of India