



File No. 37007/2020/Div.III/NPPA

भारत सरकार

Government of India

रसायन एवं उर्वरक मंत्रालय

Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers

औषध विभाग

Department of Pharmaceuticals

राष्ट्रीय औषध मूल्य निर्धारण प्राधिकरण

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

तीसरी एवं पांचवी मंजिल,  
वाई.एम.सी.ए. सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र बिल्डिंग,  
1, जय सिंह रोड़, नई दिल्ली-110001

3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
YMCA Cultural Centre Building,  
1, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi -110001

दिनांक/ Dated: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

### OFFICE MEMORANDUM

This refers to the grievances being received regarding hoarding, black-marketing and differential higher pricing of N-95 Masks in the country. In this context, it is hereby informed that N-95 Mask has been notified as an essential commodity under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 by the Government vide Notification dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Further, hoarding, black-marketing of the essential commodity is punishable offence under the Act. Further, this Office in exercise of the powers conferred under National Disaster Management Act, 2005 had directed all States/UT Governments to ensure sufficient availability of surgical and protective Masks, Hand Sanitizers and Gloves at prices not exceeding the Maximum Retail Price printed on the pack size vide Orders dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

2. In the prevailing situation due to COVID-19, a mismatch is noted between the demand and supply of N-95 Masks in the country. As per Guidance issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and World Health Organization (WHO) for management of COVID-19, it has been stated that Medical Masks are primarily meant for use of frontline health care workers.

3. In the wake of the prevailing situation due to COVID-19, the Government is striving to ensure uninterrupted supply of N-95 Masks in adequate quantity primarily for the health care workers. For this, the Government is procuring largest chunk of the N-95 Masks directly from the manufacturers/importers/suppliers at bulk rates and ex-factory prices. However, it has been noticed that other procurers (non-government entities) are getting N-95 Masks at differential prices.

4. Thus, in order to ensure availability of N-95 Masks at affordable prices in the country, NPPA hereby directs manufacturers/importers/suppliers of the N-95 Masks to

maintain parity in prices for non-government procurements and to make available the same at reasonable prices.

5. Any instance of hoarding, black-marketing and higher pricing of N-95 Masks reported will be viewed seriously and action shall be initiated by the Government under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(Alok Ranjan)

Asst. Director (M&E)

E-mail: [alok.ranjan89@gov.in](mailto:alok.ranjan89@gov.in)



011-23746793