



## ***Department of Weights and Measures***

### **At a Glance**

#### **Functions**

The Department of Weights and Measures regulates the manufacture and use of weighing and measuring instruments in trade and commerce to ensure that right quantity of the commodity is provided to the customer. It mandates declaration of contents and price on packaged commodities and verifies meters of autorickshaws, taxis, and petrol pumps.

#### **Findings**

- The Department issues licenses to manufacture, sell, and repair weights and measuring instruments.
- There are 66 licensed manufacturers and an equal number of unlicensed manufacturers in Delhi. The number of licensed dealers in Delhi is 310, but estimates suggest at least 5-6 times more illegal dealers. Total licensed repairmen are only 180. The licensing system breeds rampant corruption.
- The Department undertakes verification of autorickshaws/ taxi fare meters, tank lorries, and petrol dispensing units. This is to be done in association with State Transport Authority and the Delhi Traffic Police.

#### **Reforms**

- The license requirement for manufacturer, dealer, and repairman of weights and measuring apparatuses is anachronistic. As is the Model Approval Certificate for each model of apparatus to be manufactured. Just as the license requirement in other areas, no quality is guaranteed and it largely breeds corruption. Open and legal competition among the market participants is more likely to increase quality.
- Only the union government's Department of Weights and Measures

in New Delhi is authorised to issue the Model Approval Certificate. The removal of licensing requirement would reduce unnecessary travels and troubles for people around the country.

- Inspection and supervisory role needs to be strengthened. Inspectors from the Prevention of Food Adulteration Department can be trained to check for weights and measures when they visit food establishments for their inspections. This will allow more inspections of the non-food establishments by the inspectors of the Department of Weights and Measures.
- The Department should be merged with the proposed Consumer Protection Department, which can profitably use the surplus staff created by reorganisation of other departments in the vigilance and supervisory role.