

## **Introduction:**

The price indices in the system of economic statistics are closely watched indicators of macro-economic performances. They are direct indicators of the purchasing power of money in various types of transaction involving goods and services. As such, they are also used as deflators in providing summary measures of other volume of goods and services produced and consumed. Consequently, these indices are important tools in the design and conduct of the monetary and fiscal policy of the Government, and also of great utility in taking economic decisions throughout the private sector. In India, for these varied purposes Central and State Government agencies collect the primary data on prices. There are mainly three agencies namely, Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour, Office of Economic Adviser in Ministry of Industry and Central Statistical Organization in the Ministry of Statistics and programme Implementation and the State Directorate of Economics and Statistics responsible for the compilation and release of various indices.

The Labour Bureau compiles two series of consumer price index numbers, one relating to Industrial workers and the other relating to agricultural labours. Labour Bureau does not have a field agency of its own for collection of retail prices in construction of these indices. For the Consumer Price Index for industrial workers, it depends for its price data on the state agencies which collect the retail price data from the markets. Almost all the important agricultural commodities being transacted in the economy have been included for the purpose of data collection under the Market Intelligence Scheme implemented by the Directorate of Economics & Statistics.

Representative specifications of items for the purpose of primary work were selected by conducting a market survey in each Centre. The retail & whole prices used in the compilation of CPI (IW) are collected weekly, monthly and half yearly basis from selected markets. To capture the periodical changes in agricultural commodity prices, there is a need to have it recorded and this bulletin is being published.