



PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Sub: Retail Trade Policy of Karnataka - 2015.

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PREAMBLE:

Retailing in India is one of the pillars of its economy and accounts for 14 to 15 percent of its GDP. The Indian retail market is estimated to be US\$ 500 billion and one of the top five retail markets in the world by economic value. India is one of the fastest growing retail markets in the world, with 1.2 billion people.

The Indian retail sector is highly fragmented and the unorganized sector has around 13 million retail outlets that account for around 95-96% of the total Indian retail industry. However, going forward, the organized sector's growth potential is expected to increase due to globalization, high economic growth, and improved lifestyle.

The recent developments in the state of Karnataka in regard to Retail Trade Enterprises are noteworthy. The retail trade enterprise comprises enterprises engaged in retailing goods and services. These enterprises fall into various segments; which include food and grocery, apparel, footwear, consumer durables, home appliances and equipment, restaurants, cinema halls, multiplexes, home furnishing and furniture, jewellery, books, music, watches, pharmaceuticals, beauty and healthcare. These enterprises sell various categories of items and use multiple channels including brick and mortar, direct selling, e-commerce and other channels.

The retail distribution center provides a crucial, dynamic and evolving link between producers and consumers across Karnataka. At the simplest level, the retail enterprise typically makes a substantial contribution to employment - being the second largest enterprise in a national economy whilst simultaneously providing a significant contribution to both business activity and GDP.

Retailers Association of India (RAI) has represented the Government of Karnataka to bring out Retail Trade Policy since it contributes directly to the growth of the State economy.

Based on the phenomenal growth in the retail enterprise in Karnataka and considering the potential it offers to boost the State's economy, an urgency was felt to formulate a policy to propel retail in Karnataka so that it can keep pace with the global developments.

The policy has been drafted through a consultation process with the stakeholders i.e. Retailers Association of India and related Government Departments. The views and suggestions offered by all the stakeholders have been incorporated suitably in the policy with the objective of making Karnataka as one of the leading destinations for retail trade.

In the light of the above, a decision has been taken by the Government to formulate and adopt a Retail Trade Policy of Karnataka - 2015 for a period of 5 years.

Hence the following order:

GOVERNMENT ORDER NO: CI 291 CSC 2015, BENGALURU.

DATED: 13th JUNE, 2016

In the circumstances explained in the preamble, Government is pleased to announce the Retail Trade Policy of Karnataka - 2015 as detailed in Annexure to this Government Order.

The vision of Retail Trade Policy is to create an efficient and seamless internal trade opportunity and to boost the economic competitiveness of the State Economy by promoting and facilitating world class logistics and warehouse chain, minimizing wastage and transaction cost within the retail enterprise, giving the best value for money to the ultimate consumer while at the same time maximizing returns to the product, particularly farmers and SMEs.

The objectives of Retail Trade Policy are as follows:

- To boost Karnataka's position in the Retail Trade within the country.
- To further accelerate investment flow to underdeveloped regions of the state.
- To create large local employment opportunities, to educate the youth of all sections of the society across the region, especially in rural areas.
- To leverage Retail Trade as a tool for socio-economic development of the State.

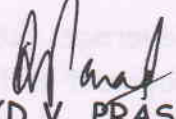
Government desires to achieve these objectives through the following Policy initiatives:

- Appointment of nodal office in Government of Karnataka to facilitate single window clearance.
- Simplification of labour laws — Relaxations of rules under the Shops and Establishment Act with regard to working hours, work shifts and employment of part-time workers and maintenance of records.
- Inclusion of Food and Grocery Retailing in 'essential' services — No interruption of services during industrial action / civic unrest. (ESMA)
- Relaxation of stocking limit under Essential Commodities Act. (Esscom) on a case to case basis depending on the particular circumstance prevailing at that time.
- Promotion of Human Resource Development and Skill Development in the retail enterprise.
- Pragmatic implementation of Packaged Commodities Regulations.
- Creation of REZ (Retail Entertainment Zones)
- Treating Distribution Centres at par with industries
- Industrial spaces within the confines of cities
- Electronic Bills

The Retail Trade Policy shall come in to effect from the date of issue of Government Order and will be valid for a period of five years or till a new policy is announced.

This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide No. FD 1146 Exp-1/2015 dated 17.11.2015, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Dept. vide No. ಅನಾಸ 42 ಆರ್‌ಪಿಆರ್ 2015 dated 7.09.2015, Labour Dept. vide No. ಕಾಇ 352 ಎಲ್‌ಇಟಿ 2015, dated 4.11.2015 and Urban Development Dept. vide No. CI 291 CSC 2015/Part-3, dated 9.12.2015 and Cabinet approval dated 08.06.2016.

By Order and in the name of the
Governor of Karnataka,


(D.V. PRASAD)

Addl. Chief Secretary to Government
Commerce & Industries Department

To,

The Compiler, Karnataka Gazette, Bangalore for publication in the next issue of the Gazette and supply 25 copies to this office.

1. The Principal Accountant General (G&SSA), Karnataka, New Building, 'Audit Bhawan', Post Box No. 5398, Bengaluru -01.
2. The Principal Accountant General (E&RSA), Karnataka, New Building, 'Audit Bhawan', Post Box No. 5398, Bengaluru -01.
3. The Principal Accountant General (A&E), Karnataka, Park House Road, Post Box No. 5329, Bengaluru-01.
4. All Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries to Govt.
5. The Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru -01.
6. The Commissioner for Industrial Development and Director of Industries and Commerce, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road, Bengaluru-01.
7. The Commissioner for Commercial Taxes, Vanijya Therige Karyalaya, Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru-09.
8. The Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre, 3rd Floor, 'A' Block, BMTCC Complex, Shanthinagar, Double Road, Bengaluru-27.
9. The Managing Director, Karnataka Udyog Mitra, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-01.
10. Joint Director (ID), Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road, Bengaluru-01.
11. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Large & Medium Industries and Tourism, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
12. PS to Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., Commerce & Industries Department, Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru-01.
13. Guard File / Spare Copies.

RETAIL TRADE POLICY OF KARNATAKA - 2015

1. Preamble:

The Indian retail industry is one of the fastest growing in the world. Retailing in India is one of the pillars of its economy and accounts for 14 to 15 percent of its GDP. The Indian retail market is estimated to be US\$ 500 billion and is expected to grow to US\$ 1.3 trillion by 2020, registering a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 16.7 per cent over 2015-20.

Indian retail sector accounts for 22 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and contributes to 8 per cent of the total employment.

Growth of Retail in India is contributed by the growing middle class which is expected to be around 91 million households by 2030 compared to 21 million today and it is projected that by 2030, 570 million people are expected to live in urban areas which is almost twice that of US today.

Retail in India has grown over years from essentially owner manned small shops to modern trade including convenience stores, supermarkets, hypermarkets and other organized retail outlets and the retail and logistic industry estimated to give livelihood to about 3.3% of Indian population (about 40 million).

It is estimated that there are around 13 million retail outlets accounting for 95-96% of total Indian Retail Industry which are mostly in the unorganized sector and are highly fragmented.

India is the fifth largest preferred retail destination globally. The country is among the highest in the world in terms of per capita retail store availability. India's retail sector is experiencing exponential growth, with retail development taking place not just in major cities and metros, but also in Tier-II and Tier-III cities. Healthy economic growth, changing demographic profile (more than 31% of the country is below 14 years), increasing disposable incomes, urbanization, changing consumer tastes and preferences are the other factors driving growth in the organized retail market in India.

India's population is taking to online retail in a big way. The online retail market is expected to grow from US\$ 6 billion to US\$ 70 billion during FY15-FY20.

The Government of India has introduced reforms to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail industry. The government has approved 51 per cent FDI in multi-brand retail and increased FDI limit to 100 per cent (from 51 per cent) in single brand retail.

Increasing participation from foreign and private players has given a boost to Indian retail industry. India's price competitiveness attracts large retail players to use it as a sourcing base and are also slowly moving from third-party buying offices to establishing their own wholly-owned/wholly-managed sourcing and buying offices.

The recent developments in the Karnataka with regard to Retail Trade Enterprises are noteworthy. Retail distribution centre provides a crucial, dynamic, and evolving link between producers and consumers across the State. Retail enterprises apart from their significant contribution to business activity and GDP makes a substantial contribution to employment.

2. Need for Retail Trade Policy:

The gross state domestic product (GSDP) of Karnataka at current prices was Rs. 6,14,607 crore in 2013-14 and accounted for 5.86 per cent of India's GDP. Based on the phenomenal growth in the retail enterprise in Karnataka and considering the potential it offers to boost the economy, the State Government is desirous of formulating a Retail Trade Policy to look into the business of retail in a holistic manner, propel retail in Karnataka, create employment opportunities, is in line with the national and global developments.

A. Key Drivers of the Policy :

- a) *Creation of employment opportunities*
- b) *Promoting grass-root entrepreneurship*
- c) *Empowerment of women*
- d) *Empowerment of farmers*
- e) *Create Demand and support industries manufacturing 'Made in India' commodities.*
- f) *Growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises ('MSMEs') in retail trade*
- g) *Contribution to Exchequer*
- h) *Enable stable prices and offer greater variety to consumers*

B. Definition:

The Retail Trade Enterprises:

The enterprises engaged in retailing of goods and services fall into various segments, which include food and grocery, apparel, footwear, consumer durables, home appliances and equipment, restaurants, cinema halls, multiplexes, home furnishing and furniture, jewellery, books, music, watches, pharmaceuticals, beauty and healthcare. These enterprises sell various categories of items & services and use multiple channels including brick and mortar/physical store/in-store/ off-line, direct selling, online/ e-commerce/ e-tailing and other channels.

The Retailer:

"Any entity that sells goods or provides service to the ultimate consumer. The ultimate consumer is one who buys these goods for personal use or consumption. The retailer therefore is one who deals with the end consumers, maintains data of dealing with such end consumers and is responsible for the service provided to the end consumer.

The sale of such goods can happen over various channels including - brick-and-mortar, direct selling, e-commerce, television, mobile phones or tablets, and other channels. Any entity or brand that portrays itself as a store, retailer or seller to the end consumer and thereby creates a service expectation in the mind of the consumer would be termed as a **retailer**."

"**Multi-brand Retail**" or "**Supermarket**" or "**Hypermarket**" is where many items are sold under a single roof.

"**Single Brand Retailer**" is the one who sells its own branded goods across its own outlets. Single-brand retailer owns whole supply chain and is the manufacturer, packer, importer and wholesaler of all goods.

3. Vision, Mission and Objectives of Retail Trade Policy, 2015

A. Vision:

To create an efficient and seamless internal trade opportunity and to boost the economic competitiveness of the State Economy by promoting and facilitating world class logistics and warehouse chain, minimizing wastage and transaction cost within the retail enterprise, giving the best value for money to the ultimate consumer while at the same time maximizing returns to the product, particularly farmers and SMEs.

B. Mission:

To prepare strategies to provide a globally competitive and sustainable investment environment, thereby making Karnataka one of the most favoured economic magnets and Centres of unlimited opportunities within the country and the globe.

C. Objectives:

- a) To boost Karnataka's position in the Retail Trade within the country.*
- b) To further accelerate investment flow to underdeveloped regions of the State.*
- c) To create large local employment opportunities to educate the youth of all sections of the society across the region, especially in rural areas.*
- d) To leverage Retail Trade as a tool for socio-economic development of the State.*

4. Policy Initiatives:

Modern retail provides employment opportunities to the educated unemployed youth as well as those who are not very literate and / or are economically backward. It also helps the growth or consumption and demand by creating a conducive environment for the consumers.

Retailing supports considerable investment by the public and private sectors in urban renewal by providing shopping facilities to the residents. Development of retail clusters also fosters cultural, civic and economic development of remote areas of the state.

This is also important in the context of tourism. These smaller towns and villages then serve to develop surrounding rural areas by providing a range of facilities and services.

The nature and scale of retailing in Karnataka has also undergone major changes, mainly driven by economic development and also by changes within the industry itself. Specific retail planning requirements are to be met by regional authorities and planning authorities in the state of Karnataka to carry out their regional planning and development functions respectively.

Variety of initiatives needs to be introduced to provide a conducive environment for the growth of the retail enterprise. To allow the retail enterprise in the state to achieve its true potential, some exceptions and relaxations in the current regulatory framework need to be provided.

The following key initiatives are proposed in the Retail Trade Policy 2015

- A. Appointment of nodal office in Government of Karnataka to facilitate single window clearance
- B. Simplification of labor laws — Relaxations of rules under the Shops and Establishment Act with regard to working hours, work shifts and employment of part-time workers and maintenance of records.
- C. Inclusion of Food and Grocery Retailing in 'essential' services — No interruption of services during industrial action / civic unrest. (ESMA)
- D. Relaxation of stocking limit under Essential Commodities Act. (Esscom) on a case to case basis depending on the particular circumstance prevailing at that time.
- E. Promotion of Human Resource Development and Skill Development in the retail enterprise.
- F. Pragmatic implementation of Packaged Commodities Regulations.
- G. Creation of REZ (Retail Entertainment Zones)
- H. Treating Distribution Centres at par with industries
- I. Industrial spaces within the confines of cities
- J. Electronic Bills

A. Appointment of nodal office in Government of Karnataka to facilitate single window clearance

Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC), a society under Commerce & Industries Department will be the nodal agency to look after the interests of the retail enterprise. The nodal office shall coordinate with all the departments and ministries of Karnataka vis-a-vis central Government and members of industry to speed up licensing development and growth of retail enterprise. Provide a single window clearance mechanism for small and organized retail industry of the State. The nodal office shall liaise with the relevant licensing authorities in the state, on behalf of the retailer, so that these licenses may be procured faster.

B. Simplification of labor laws — Relaxations of rules under the Shops and Establishment Act with regard to working hours, work shifts and employment of part-time workers and maintenance of records.

~~Relaxations of rules under the Shops and Establishment Act with regard to working hours, work shifts and employment of part time workers and maintenance of records.~~

- i. Retail enterprise shall be allowed to stay open every day of the year to cater to the needs of the working class and other class of customers provided that the employees are given compulsory weekly offs on a preferential basis.
- ii. Retail enterprise dealing in all goods and commodities shall be allowed to operate between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m.
- iii. Women employees shall be permitted to work beyond 8.30 p.m., provided precautions are taken for ensuring their safety during such time and provisions made for dropping them to their respective homes in the event they work till late in the night. The decision shall remain with the respective female employee as to whether she chooses to work such shifts or not.
- iv. Retail enterprise shall be exempted from maintaining physical records for attendance and salary. Provision for Retail enterprise to maintain employee-related records required under various labour laws in electronic form, and to accept returns in electronic form will be made in line with the progress of computerization in the Labour Department, Government of Karnataka.

- v. Retail enterprise shall have an option for self-certification and filing of consolidated annual returns under various Acts administered by the Labour Department, Government of Karnataka.
- vi. Option to employ housewives and students on part-time basis.

Retail enterprise can offer part-time employment to such individuals, provided the worker is not ready to work full time. For this purpose, the consent of the worker shall be taken before hand. Minimum per hour wage rate shall be proportionately determined in accordance with minimum monthly wage rate specified under minimum wages act. It will be examined whether these part timers may be exempted from other laws. The retail unit cannot engage more than 25% of its employees as part time employees.

C. Inclusion of Food and Grocery Retailing in 'essential' services (ESMA) — No interruption of services during industrial action / civic unrest.

Food and Grocery Retailers are entrusted the responsibility of delivering certain services to citizens which, if obstructed, affect the normal life of people.

Sometimes occurrences like bandhs result in compulsory shutting of retail establishments. This leads to disruption of product access to citizens on the one hand and huge wastage of produce on the other hand for retailers and ultimately to the nation.

Food and Grocery Business retail shall be included under the Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance Act as 'Essential Services' considering the need of the society at large in view of the changed working timings and lifestyle.

D. Relaxation of stocking limit under Essential Commodities Act. (Esscom) on a case to case basis depending on the particular circumstance prevailing at that time.

Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies will repeal order issued under Essential Commodities Act.

As per the direction received from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India Vide circular no S-16/02/2015-ECR&E dated 29th April, 2015 to all the State Government and the Union Territories of India which states:

"the Central government is of the view that Retailer of Multiple Outlet or Large Departmental Retailers / Stores may be exempted from the purview of stock holding limits, for the quantity to be stocked for sale through the Multiple outlets and Departmental Stores to keep prices of essential commodities under control. This exemption may apply to all the essential commodities scheduled under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Therefore, it is advised that the Retailer (Multiple Outlet) and Departmental Retailers may be considered for exemption from stock limits while submitting a proposal to the Central Government."

In line with the direction received from the Central Government in the above said circular, the stocking limits prescribed under various Essential Commodities orders will be removed on a case to case basis depending on the particular circumstance prevailing at that time.

E. Promotion of Human Resource Development and Skill Development in the retail enterprise.

Special emphasis has been given to the development of human resources and skill development for the Retail industry, particularly in new era of high potential.

The State run agencies and the renowned private institutions will institute training-based certification and placement programmes. They would collaborate with Retailers Association of India and other associations as well as the local retail industry to understand their resource requirements. Based on these requirements, a merit based, defined certification and placement procedure shall be instituted so that appropriate manpower is created for the retail enterprise. This is particularly important for small enterprises which are not in position to impart the required training in-house.

Based on an assessment of feasibility and other details by the task force constituted under the Empowered Committee, proposal will be prepared for the establishment of centre of excellence and research and development furnishing schools and other employment oriented centres.

Centre of Excellence:

Centre of excellence would be set up with private partnership for which Govt. will provide 50% financial assistance towards capital expenditure. The centre will have a finishing academy-cum-incubation centre. Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC) will take an initiative in this aspect.

F. Pragmatic Implementation of Packaged Commodities Regulations

- i. **Label declarations of pre-packaged commodities:** Most of the SKUs (stock keeping units) / commodities stocked and sold by retailers are in pre-packaged form, which need to be compliant with the label declarations, provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011. Thus all pre-packaged commodities should have certain declarations as specified by the Act & Rules.
- ii. Retailers in general, and organized retailers in particular, deal with number of products bought from hundreds of vendors. Sometimes, a few items may not carry all the requisite declarations as mandated or there could be a mis-print. These happen from the side of the manufacturers, importers, or packers.
- iii. Not having mandatory declarations on the labels is detrimental to consumer interest. Logically in such cases, liability for offences should be against manufacturers, importers, or packers. Because, the former have full control in the printing of labels on products, and the associated declarations mandated by Law.
- iv. Under Section 53 (1) of Legal Metrology Act 2009, state governments are empowered to make rules, after consultation with the Central Government, to carry out the provisions of this Act.
- v. Section 53(2) of the Legal Metrology Act 2009 lists the matters on which Rules may be provided. Clause (f) of subsection 2 of Section 53 provides that State Government may make rules pertaining to the matters of, "fee for compounding of offences under subsection (1) of Section 48". This includes fee for compounding of offences under Section 36 of LM Act.

- vi. As per Section 36 of the Legal Metrology Act 2009 lists the penalty for selling, etc., of a pre-packaged commodity which does not conform to the declarations on the packages.
- vii. The State Government shall come out with a notification rationalizing the onus / actions / fines for non-compliance under section 36 of provisions of the Legal Metrology Act 2009, and the rules made there under to be taken against the Manufacturer / Packer / Importer as per the provisions of the Act and its rules, and / or against the wholesaler / retailer for the first and subsequent offences, if any. The wholesale / retail dealer from whom goods have been found or seized will be made a party or witness so as to establish the case against the Manufacturer / Packer / Importer.

G. Retail Entertainment Zone (REZ):

The organized retail built-up space supply in 2013 in the country was about 0.47 million square meters which is a whopping increase of 78 per cent increase over the total mall built-up space supply of just 0.25 million sq. m. in 2012 and the demand for space for organized retail will be ever increasing in the coming years mainly due to urbanization and opening up of markets.

The State Government shall recognize the need for shopping and recreational areas to create much needed balance in urban places between residential, commercial, industrial, shopping and recreational areas.

Efforts will be made for providing retail areas with direct access to mass public transport systems; secure a traffic plan designed for the long term; secure all year round electricity, water, gas, sewage and IT connections.

A. Zones for Retail in Master Planning:

The Master Plans by all planning authorities in State will reserve land for retail development. This would help the industry in the following manner:

- i) The large international standard malls require larger land parcels, with earmarked spaces in master plans would help in raising the standard of development.
- ii) The infrastructure on the road, public transportation, power and other fronts can be planned in advance accordingly.

B. Development Regulations (DR)

The DR governs retail development largely as per the norms governing the commercial office development. The business use and requirements are different for the retail development and hence there is a need to incorporate such specific business needs. The following modifications would enhance the viability and quality of development for retail centres.

- i) **Ground Coverage** - Restriction on the ground coverage for retail developments to be removed subject to zoning regulation.
- ii) **Floor to Floor Heights** - Retail developments will be allowed a floor to floor height of up to 5.5 meters.
- iii) **Infrastructure Support** - The road and public transport infrastructure needs to be upgraded around retail developments to support additional public movement. Part of tax consideration generating from these developments should to be directed towards improvement of infrastructure around these developments.
- iv) **Building Height** - There is a height restriction of 30 meters for buildings which house a multiplex or auditorium. Alternate commercial use like hotels, service apartment, offices are compulsorily (from a viability point of view) required to be developed on the upper floors this increases the height of the building. The restriction on building heights will be relaxed as per norms.
- v) **Parking Norms** - The retail enterprises depending on the format, size and location receive large number of vehicles and limited access to parking results in traffic snarls around the space. The retail entities would be encouraged to provide additional parking spaces within their area and such constructions can be allowed as per requirement without FAR calculations.

H. Treating Distribution Centres at par with industries

Warehouses and distribution centres used by retailers and traders are locations that aid industry and commerce. They also provide employment opportunities. These establishments need to be promoted in order to develop a robust and an efficient logistic set up. Such a set up would help reduce wastage. This also helps in reducing wastage. Recognition of this activity is an essential backbone of retail and consumption in the state. Distribution centers shall be recognized in par with the service industry.

With the entry of many conglomerates into the organized retail sector, the Indian warehousing landscape is getting redefined from the conventional concept of 'godown' - a mere four-wall-and-shed - to modern set ups that facilitate better stock movement and reduction in product wastage, especially food. This is achieved with high levels of automation, multi-rack and palletization, infrastructure, etc. However the prerequisite is the availability of facilitating space.

Government will allow and encourage retailers to set up their warehouses within industrial zones. Agriculture produce contributes to a significant portion of the merchandise sold in retail stores.

The Government will also look at a policy encouraging setting up of world class Warehouses on PPP basis.

I. Industrial spaces within the confines of cities

In cities with a population of more than 1 million, retail outlets shall be allowed to be set in places allocated for industries within city limits, since this promotes commerce and propagates commerce and employment.

J. Electronic bills

Considering the multi-channel scenario and the need to save paper and increase traceability of transactions, all kinds of retailers shall be allowed to issue bills (tax invoices) to the consumer in an electronic mode and thereby replacing the physical printing of paper.

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5. Implementation Mechanism

A High Level Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary along with ACS/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of line departments will be constituted to monitor the progress of implementation of all the provisions of the policy regularly.

The composition of the empowered committee will be as follows:

Sl. No.	Name and Designation of Officer	Remarks
1	Chief Secretary, GoK	Chairperson
2	Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary to Govt., C&I Dept.	Member
3	Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/ Secretary to Govt., Urban Development Dept.	Member
4	Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary to Govt., Labour Dept.	Member
5	Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary to Govt., Higher Education Dept.	Member
6	Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary to Govt., Finance Dept.	Member
7	Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary to Govt., Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Dept.	Member
8	Commissioner for Industrial Development and Director of Industries & Commerce	Member
9	Nominee of Retailers Association of India	Member
10	Managing Director, Visvesvarajah Trade Promotion Centre	Member Secretary

This Committee can co-opt other members and /or constitute sub groups/ task force to facilitate smooth implementation of the Retail Trade Policy 2015.

This Committee will be assisted by a Retail Trade Policy Monitoring Cell / Outsourced Professional agency in VTPC. This cell will have requisite staff and resources to conduct research, undertake studies, surveys, etc to assess impact of policy initiatives and provide relevant feedback regarding the policy and its implementation.

This Committee shall be the authority to interpret the policy measures detailed in this policy and its decision shall be final.

