

- (viii) to promote equitable distribution of items of mass consumption at fair prices and to take up with the concerned agencies measures for streamlining the distribution of and/or reduction of prices of specified commodities of mass consumption;
- (ix) to take up with the concerned agencies suspension of any price increase or any trade practices adversely affecting the welfare of consumers, in respect of manufacture, trade or commerce relating to industries specified in the first schedule of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951; and
- (x) to become a member affiliate of any international body concerned with consumer matters.

Fair Price Shops in Industrial Areas

3845. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have opened fair price shops in Industrial areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of such fair price shops, industry-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Opening of fair price shops in industrial areas is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, as part of streamlining and planning the distribution of essential commodities, discussions were held with the State Governments in December, 1974 and January and February 1975. As a result of these discussions, the State Governments were advised *inter alia*; to augment and extend the public distribution system in urban area, deficit rural areas, hill areas, industrial, plantation

and mining complexes and other vulnerable areas. In the urban and rural areas including areas of industrial concentration, the Union Department of Civil Supplies and Cooperation and the National Cooperative Development Corporation are assisting in the development of cooperatives for undertaking consumer trade including the running of fair-price shops.

There are in all 2.33 lakhs Fair Price Shops in the country. There are no fair price shops organised on the basis of individual industries.

Maharashtra-Karnataka Boundary Dispute

3846. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question. No. 1221 on the 24th March, 1976 regarding Maharashtra-Karnataka boundary dispute and state:

(a) what further progress has since been made for the solution of the border dispute between the two States; and

(b) by what time it is expected that the dispute will be solved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). As stated earlier efforts to evolve a satisfactory solution of this dispute are still proceeding and, at this stage, it would not be appropriate to give any details or to set any time-limit.

Government Servants in Possession of Assets out of Proportion to their Income

3847. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many Government servants were found to be in possession of assets out of proportion to their known sources of income during the last two years; and