

Reservation Under The Constitution

1048. SHRI PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any reservation rules have been framed under the reservation law which are applicable in all the spheres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIAMTI. MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no Act on reservation and the question of framing any reservation rules, therefore, does not arise. The reservation is under implementation through executive instructions which have the force of law under Article 13 of the Constitution of India

[English]

Funds to NGO's by Consumer Affairs Departments

1049. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Department of Consumer Affairs has been funding any N.G.O.'s for implementation of any consumer affairs awareness programmes; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance given during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Under the Central Excise & Salt Act, 1944, as amended in 1991, the Government has set up the Consumer Welfare Fund to give financial assistance to NGOs, State Governments etc. to undertake activities in the field of consumer protection. The Fund has been created by the Department of Revenue but is being operated by the Department of Consumer Affairs. The financial assistance is mainly given for production and distribution of literature, setting up facilities for training & research in consumer education; setting up of complaint handling/counselling/ guidance mechanisms like consumer guidance bureau setting up of consumer product testing laboratories etc.

During the last three years, the following assistance has been sanctioned:-

Year	Amt. Sanctioned
1995	90,44,633/-
1996	86,50,849/-
1997	40,31,450/-

[Translation]

Prices of Crude

1050. SHRI MANIK RAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the prices of crude oil have again gone up suddenly after coming down to the level of 9-10 dollar per barrel creating a threat of petrol crisis again.
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures being taken by the Government to avoid the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The prices of crude oils in the international market have firmed up marginally after touching a low of about 9-10 dollars/bbl in March 1998. However, there is no perceived threat of petrol crisis.

- (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Super Bazar

1051. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the aims of objectives for setting up the Super Bazar and the extent to which these objectives have been achieved;
- (b) whether the Super Bazar is selling most of the items at the maximum retail price and not at competitive prices;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the duties and functions of the vigilance wing of the Super Bazar;
- (e) whether the suppliers registered with the Super Bazar accountable to them;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether damaged stocks accumulated in the Super Bazar are being shown as assets; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) The Cooperative Store Ltd. (Super