

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5016
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2000
NGOS FOR CONSUMER RIGHTS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Non-Governmental Organisations are functioning as watchdogs on the violation of consumer rights;
- (b) if so, whether any funds have been provided to NGOs by the Government for this purpose;
- (c) if so, the funds provided during 1999-2000;
- (d) whether there in any proposal for expansion of this activity during 2000-2001; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREE PRASAD)

- (a) : Voluntary Consumer Organisations (VCOs) play an important role in spreading awareness about the rights of the consumers.
- (b) : Eligible VCOs are provided financial assistance from the Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF) for suitable projects to promote consumer awareness.
- (c) : A total grant of Rs.30,64,560/- has been released during the year 1999-2000 from the CWF to various VCOs in the country.
- (d) & (e): The objective of the Consumer Welfare Fund is to provide financial assistance to promote and protect the welfare of consumers and strengthen the voluntary consumer movement in the country particularly in rural areas. As such various schemes/programmes from eligible VCOs are supported by providing grants from CWF, which is an ongoing process.