

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4172  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2000  
CONSUMER INFORMATION CENTRE  
RAMCHANDRA BAINDA

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

- (a) whether the Government have opened `District Consumer Information Centres` in the country recently under a new Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of centers likely to be opened in each State during 2000-2001; and
- (d) the extent to which the consumers are likely to be benefitted as a result thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The Government have recently announced a new Scheme for setting up of District Consumer Information Centres and circulated it to all States/UTs. The Scheme envisages setting up one such centre in each district of the Country in five years in a phased manner covering 20% of the districts in every year. The proposal is to be implemented with the help of Zilla Parishads and/or Voluntary Consumer Organisations of repute. The response of the State/UTs Governments is awaited in this regard.

(d) : These information Centres are expected to provide a number of benefits to the consumers in awareness generation as well as in protecting their rights through dissemination of information on all aspects of consumer protection, coordination with the District Weights & Measures authority/laboratories in handling issues relating to quality, weights and measures, adulteration etc., close interaction with the District Civil Supplies Organisation, developing a data base of the VCOs in the region and providing consumer related information such as relating to fair price shops, availability of essential commodities, etc.