

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:932

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2000

CONSUMER COURTS

NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL;SAHIB SINGH VERMA;SHIVRAJ SINGH
CHOUHAN;SRINIVASULU KALAVA

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to strengthen the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and also to give more powers to Consumer Protection Courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Consumer Courts functioning in the country as on June 30, 2000 and number of cases pending in National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and the various State Commission/District Forums for disposal, State-wise;
- (d) the annual expenditure incurred on National/States/District Forums;
- (e) to what extent the strengthen of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 will affect the smooth functioning of Consumer Courts throughout the country; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the disposal of cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRIV. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : The proposals for amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 mainly relate to speedier disposal of cases in the consumer courts; giving more powers to consumer forums to better protect the interests of consumers; constitution of benches of National/State Commissions; setting up of District Consumer Protection Councils etc.

(c) : As per the information provided by the National Commission, as on 30th June, 2000 there is a National Commission, 32 State Commissions and 555 District Forums set up in the country. The statewise information regarding cases pending in National Commission, State Commissions and District Forums is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) : The annual expenditure incurred by National Commission during the year 1999-2000 was Rs. 66,54,000/-. The budgets of State Commissions and District Forums are provided and controlled by the State Governments.

(e) : The proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are mainly aimed to smoothen the working of the consumer courts at various levels and also strengthen them and achieve quicker disposal of cases.

(f) : The following important steps have been taken by the Government to expedite the disposal of cases:-

(i) Strengthening of the infrastructure of the consumer courts for which Central Government has provided one-time grant of Rs.61.8 crores to supplement the efforts of the States/Union Territories (UTs).

(ii) State/UT Governments have been requested to fill up the vacancies of Presidents/Members in the consumer courts in time.

(iii) Central Government has written to the State/UT Governments to hold periodic meetings with the Presidents of the Consumer Courts to monitor and expedite the disposal of cases.

(iv) Central Government and the National Commission are regularly monitoring the working of the Consumer Courts.

(v) Central Government conducts training courses for the Members of the Consumer Courts to acquaint them with the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and Rules and other relevant legislations.

(vi) Amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 as considered necessary.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 932 FOR 28.7.2000 - REGAF
CONSUMER COURTS

Statement regarding cases pending in the National Commission, State Commissions & District Forums.

NATIONAL COMMISSION

Cases pending As on 30.6.2000 - 8999

STATE COMMISSIONS & DISTRICT FORUMS

S.NO.	STATES/ UTS	CASES PENDING IN STATE COMMISSIONS FORUMS	As on PENDING	CASES As on PENDING IN DISTRICT FORUMS	As on
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1846	30.6.2000	16284	31.5.2000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	31.3.2000	29	31.3.2000
3.	Assam	637	31.3.2000	1119	30.9.1999
4.	Bihar	3558	31.3.2000	16004	31.3.2000
5.	Goa	145	30.6.2000	494	30.6.2000
6.	Gujarat	3255	30.6.2000	19726	30.6.2000
7.	Haryana	2788	31.3.2000	17762	31.3.2000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	935	30.6.2000	3894	30.6.2000
9.	J & K	622	31.3.1999	2189	31.3.1999
10.	Karnataka	2792	31.5.2000	6515	31.5.2000
11.	Kerala	1330	31.5.2000	5948	31.5.2000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2866	30.6.2000	6393	31.5.2000
13.	Maharashtra	7826	31.3.2000	20515	31.12.1999
14.	Manipur	21	31.5.2000	29	31.5.2000
15.	Meghalaya	27	30.6.2000	49	30.6.1999
16.	Mizoram	22	30.6.2000	28	31.12.1999
17.	Nagaland	25	31.3.2000	39	31.3.2000
18.	Orissa	3936	30.6.2000	5316	31.3.2000
19.	Punjab	2301	31.3.2000	3583	31.3.2000
20.	Rajasthan	12257	31.3.2000	16787	31.3.2000
21.	Sikkim	3	31.3.2000	12	31.3.2000
22.	Tamil Nadu	3048	31.3.2000	7371	31.3.2000
23.	Tripura	241	31.3.2000	136	31.12.1999
24.	U.P.	21410	30.6.2000	68947	30.6.2000
25.	West Bengal	2269	30.6.2000	3599	31.3.2000
26.	A & N Islands	10	31.3.2000	23	31.3.2000
27.	Chandigarh	237	31.5.2000	3842	31.5.2000
28.	D. & N. Haveli	0	-	10	31.12.1999
29.	Daman & Diu	2	31.12.1999	30	31.12.1999
30.	Delhi	4805	30.6.2000	20134	30.6.2000
31.	Lakshadweep	1	30.6.2000	0	30.6.2000
32.	Pondicherry	41	30.6.2000	39	30.6.2000