

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4038
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
CONSUMER PROTECTION COUNCIL
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

(a) the steps taken to enhance the effectiveness and working of Central Consumer Protection Council to ensure better consumer protection; and

(b) the status of the various working groups constituted under the Ministry?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a): In order to enhance its effectiveness and working and to ensure better consumer protection, the Central Consumer Protection Council (CCPC) has been restructured and its size reduced from its earlier strength of 150 to 35 Members in 2006 to facilitate more meaningful and focussed discussions therein. Further, as and when recommended or decided in meetings of the CCPC. Working Groups are set up to examine and give recommendations on important subjects concerning consumers.

(b): In pursuance of the recommendations of the CCPC in its 23rd meeting held on 16.7.2003, six Working Groups on important subjects concerning the consumers were constituted namely, Working Group on Food Safety, Working Group on Misleading Advertisements, Working Group on Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Equipments, Working Group on Consumer Health & Safety concerning Tobacco Products, Working Group on Counterfeit, Fake, Spurious, Contraband products and Working Group to formulate the New Acts/for including the proposals for amending in the existing Acts relating to Consumer Interest, e.g. (a) Product Liability Act, (b) Unfair Terms of Contract Act, (c) Builders Licensing Boards Act, (d) Whistle Blowers Protection Act. Out of these, five Working Groups have submitted their final reports and action is being taken accordingly.

Further, in pursuance of the recommendations of the CCPC in its 25th meeting held in 2009, a decision was taken for constitution of Working Groups on the following subjects, i.e. (a) Problems hampering the functioning of Consumer Fora, (b) Monitoring and regulation of unethical, misleading & objectionable advertising, (c) Prices and availability of essential commodities & (d) Deceptions and frauds in investment schemes.