

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4342

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011

VACANT POSTS

Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

(a) whether several posts are lying vacant in the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides for the Union Government to act if State Governments fail to fill up the vacant posts;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has issued any fresh directions to those States where vacant posts remained unfilled;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that consumers get redressal of their grievances at the earliest possible?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam, as per information furnished by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) the State-wise details of vacancies in the State Commissions and District Fora as on 14.12.2011 is at Annexure.

(c) to (e) : No, Madam. Although under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to fill up the vacant posts in State Commissions and District Fora, the Union Government has been issuing directions to the State Governments in this regard from time to time. Recently, Secretary, Consumer Affairs has written letters to the Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs requesting them to take expeditious action to fill up all such vacancy within the specified time frame.

(f) : in order to dispose of the pending cases, circuit benches from National Commission have been frequently visiting States. Some State Commission have constituted additional benches mainly to dispose of backlog pending cases, Several provisions have been made in the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002 and Rules and Regulations framed subsequently to strengthen the functioning of the Consumer Fora which also include enabling the senior most member to preside over the consumer fora in the absence of the President for any reasons so as to avoid any delay in disposal of cases.