

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:63
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT
Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane

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

- (a) the details of provisions relating to maintenance of electronic weighing machine by wholesale and retail dealers under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011;
- (b) whether the Government has received reports of Kendriya Bhandars, NCCFs and Super Bazaars not maintaining the said electronic weighing machines in their retail stores; and
- (c) if so, the details of actions taken or proposed to be taken against them for fleecing consumers?

Answer

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

(a): Under sub-rule (7) of rule 18 of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, 'all the retailers who are covered under the Value Added Tax VAT or Turn Over Tax (TOT) and dealing in packaged commodities whose net content declaration is by weight or volume or a combination thereof shall maintain an electronic weighing machine of at least accuracy class III, with smallest division of atleast 1 g. with facility to issue a printed receipt indicating among other things, the gross quantity, price and the like at a prominent place in their retail premises, free of cost, for the benefit of consumers and the consumers may check the weight of their packaged commodities purchased from the shop on such machine`.

(b) & (c): The Government has received reports from Kendriya Bhandar, NCCF and Super Bazar in this regard. Kendriya Bhandars have provided mechanical weighing scales along with weights to enable customers to verify weight of packaged items sold by them. These mechanical scales are verified by the Legal Metrology Deptt. of the Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi. Kendriya Bhandar had also informed that they are in the process of providing electronic weighing machines in all their retail stores in a phased manner by 31-03-2012. NCCF has two retail outlets in Delhi where only packaged commodities are sold. For the convenience of consumers, weighing machines are made available in each of the stores. The Super Bazar has informed that all their outlets are equipped with electronic weighing machines with class III accuracy.