

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2179
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
CONSUMER INFORMATION CENTRES
Banerjee Shri Ambica

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up consumer information centres in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (c) the amount of funds allocated by the Government for setting up of such centres during the current year; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to set up more such centres during the current year?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The scheme of District Consumer Information Centre(DCIC) was launched in 2000 and was discontinued w.e.f. 2004. Under the scheme, one DCIC is to be set up in each district of the country to function as an information & guidance Centre. The main functions of District Consumer Information Centre were to disseminate information on consumer protection not only to direct users but also to all local bodies and institutions, act as watchdogs for consumers, facilitate filing of complaints, liaise with the District Weights and Measures authorities and to raise consumers awareness. The total amount of grant given under the scheme for setting up of one DCIC was Rs. 5 lakhs. The grant was disbursed in a phased manner covering 3 years with Rs. 2.5 lakhs in the first year, Rs. 1.75 lakhs in the second year and Rs. 75,000/- in the third year. The 2nd and 3rd installments were given subject to the centre having demonstrated satisfactory performance on the basis of the report of the District Magistrate/District Collector.

(c) & (d): Nil. Since the scheme had already been discontinued in the year 2004, no further release of funds is taking place.