

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2828
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2013
CONSUMER COURTS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Kishor Shri Kamal

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

- (a) the total number of functional and non-functional consumer courts in the country;
- (b) the total number of judges deputed in these courts and the number of post of judges lying vacant, State-wise along with the steps taken to fill up the vacant posts in the consumer courts; and
- (c) the number of cases registered, disposed and pending along with the steps taken to improve the functioning of these courts and remove pendency of consumer cases?

Answer

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

(a): National Commission and all 35 State Commissions are functional. As far as District Consumer Fora are concerned, out of total 641 District Consumer Fora, 613 are functional and 28 are non-functional in the country.

(b) : As far as National Commission is concerned the total sanctioned strength of Judicial Members (including President) is six, out of which one post is vacant. State-wise vacancy position of Members including Presidents of State Commission and District Fora is at Annexure. The President of the National Commission is regularly writing to the Chief Ministers of State Governments as well as the Presidents of the State Commissions and the Union Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs is regularly writing to Chief Secretaries of State Governments to take immediate steps to fill up the vacancies of the Presidents and Members of the State Commissions and District Fora.

(c) : The number of cases registered, disposed and pending in National Commission, State Commissions and District Fora are as per the following table:

SI. No.	Name of Agency	Cases filled since inception	Cases disposed of since inception	Cases pending
1.	National Commission	82612	71915	10697
2.	State Commissions	611051	515415	95636
3.	District Fora	3304141	3046394	257747
	Total	3997804	3633724	364080

Following steps are being taken to improve the functioning of these courts and remove pendency of consumer cases:

(i) The National Commission holds annual conference of the Presidents of the State Commissions and Secretaries In-charge, Consumer Affairs of the State GovernmentsAJTs to evaluate the functioning of the Consumer Fomms in the country and effective implementation of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(ii) For speedy disposal of cases, some additional/circuit benches are functioning in some States as per the following table:

SI. No.	State and Benches
1.	Gujarat (3 Additional Benches)
2.	Haryana (1 Additional Bench)
3.	Maharashtra (2 Circuit Bench)
4.	Uttar Pradesh (1 Additional Bench)
5.	West Bengal (1 Additional Bench)
6.	Madhya Pradesh (1 Additional Bench)
7.	Punjab (1 Additional Bench)

(iii) Some of the State Commissions and District Forums are adopting the process of holding Lok Adalats for speedy disposal of the cases.