

made of the steps so as to assess their efficacy in concrete terms; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) to (c). Several legal and administrative measures have been taken by the Government to promote and protect the interests of the consumers. To provide better protection to the consumers and for speedy and inexpensive redressal of their grievances, the Government has brought into force a comprehensive consumer protection law, namely, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. This Act applies to all goods and services and covers private, public, joint and cooperative sectors. Besides, rights have been conferred on the consumers and consumer organisations to file complaints in courts under existing laws having bearing on the interests of the consumers such as Essential Commodities Act, 1955, Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, Standards of Weights and Measures Act, etc. To promote consumer awareness and a widespread consumer movement, the Central Government has taken various measures which include holding of national, regional and State level seminars, use of TV and AIR and other media, publishing brochures and literature on consumer protection, coordination with the States and UTs on the activities of consumer protection, etc.

2. The steps taken by the Government have, by and large, served the interests of the consumers and generated consumer awareness. The redressal forums constituted and functioning in some of the States have provided speedy redressals to consumers. Central Consumer Protection Council and Councils set up in most of the States are promoting and protecting the interests of the consumers.

Rise in Price of Wheat in Delhi

*383. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH TUR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of wheat has risen in the open market in Delhi;

(b) if so, the price of wheat in Delhi during October and November, 1988;

(c) whether these prices are higher as compared to the corresponding period last year; if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether Government propose to enhance the quota of wheat for distribution through the Public Distribution System to provide relief to the consumers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) to (c). The price of wheat (Kalyansona) in the open market of Delhi ranged between Rs. 285 and Rs. 292 per quintal during October and November, 1988, as against Rs. 223 to Rs. 228 per quintal during the corresponding period last year.

(d) and (e). The allotments of wheat for distribution through the public distribution system are made to the various States/ Union Territories on a month-to-month basis taking into account the overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, the relative needs of the various States, market availability and other related factors. These allotments are, however, only supplemental to open market availability. For the present, there is no proposal to enhance the monthly allocation to Delhi.