

Union, shortly known as ITU, stationed at Geneva. The clearance in MW Band does not permit simultaneous operation on 20 KW MW and 200 KW MW transmitters because of mutual interference. But we have obtained a clearance in so far as FM band is concerned and Jabalpur is going to get that very soon.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: I do not understand this part of the answer of the hon. Minister that "the latter transmitter has practically outlived its useful life." I have very reliable information that by merely entailing nominal expenditure, Vividh Bharati commercial services could be easily started at Jabalpur. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the amount involved for starting Vividh Bharati commercial services and whether the Government would take appropriate action and steps to bring the Vividh Bharati commercial services to Jabalpur.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: The life of these transmitters is twenty years maximum. It has put in 26 years service; but knowing the importance of the business area, specially the business activities of Jabalpur, arrangement has been made for Jabalpur having a 10 KW FM transmitter and that is being set up very soon with necessary studio office, receiving facilities and staff quarters. This will also have a stereo compatible voice, so that it will be nicely audible and useful.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: My essential question was whether the Vividh Bharati will be brought to Jabalpur.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: I said yes, through a 10 KW FM transmitter.

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATANAYAK: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to expand the Vividh Bharati commercial services in Orissa during the 8th Five Year Plan. If so, the details thereof.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: In the 8th Five Year Plan there is no plan so far as Orissa is concerned regarding Vividh Bharati.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT: Mr. Speaker, will the Vividh Bharati Service be started from Raipur and Bilaspur also alongwith Jabalpur?

[*English*]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: We are taking one by one according to the need of the particular area.

[*Translation*]

Consumer Protection Act, 1986

*592. **SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 is being implemented by all the States;

(b) if so, the State-wise/Union-Territory-wise number of cases registered thereunder since 1989, year-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government so far to implement the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 stringently and to make it more effective?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir. As per the information available, State level Consumer Protection Councils have been set up in all the States/UTs. Redressal machinery has also started functioning in all States/UTs, except in 4 States of Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Sikkim. The Act does not extend to the State of Jammu and Kashmir which has

adopted its own legislation in the field of Consumer Protection.

(b) The information received from 25 States/UTs. is annexed.

(c) All the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 have been brought into force with effect from 1.7.1987. State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are

reminded from time to time at the highest level to implement the Act. The matter is also taken up with them whenever the officers of the Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution visit those States/Union Territories. The Government has also constituted a high powered Working Group to examine suggestions to make the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 more effective and purposeful.

ANNEXURE

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of cases registered in State Commission & District Forums in				
		1989	1990	1991		
1	2	3	4	5		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	7	11		(as on 21.8.91)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1616	15615	7026		(as on 30.6.91)
3.	Assam	—	20	55		(as on 30.3.91)
4.	Bihar	396	719	1482		(as on 23.8.91)
5.	Gujarat	330	1172	2268		(as on 19.8.91)
6.	Goa	32	175	171		(as on 21.8.91)
7.	Haryana	54	607	852		(as on 22.8.91)
8.	Himachal Pradesh	47	342	237		(as on 20.8.91)
9.	Karnataka	343	1266	1837		(as on 31.3.91)
10.	Kerala		report not received			

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of cases registered in State Commission & District Forums in				
		1989	1990	1991		
1	2	3	4	5		
11.	Madhya Pradesh		report not received			
12.	Maharashtra	—	2996	4272	(as on 23.8.91)	
13.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	(as on 23.8.91)	
14.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil	(as on 22.8.91)	
15.	Mizoram	—	12	15	(as on 22.8.91)	
16.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil	(as on 20.8.91)	
17.	Orissa	78	516	168	(as on 31.3.91)	
18.	Punjab	Nil	160	644	(as on 30.6.91)	
19.	Rajasthan	3631	3794	3584	(as on 16.8.91)	
20.	Sikkim		report no received			
21.	Tripura		report not received			

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of cases registered in State Commission & District Forums in				
		1989	1990	1991		
1	2	3	4	5		
22.	Tamil Nadu		report not received			
23.	Uttar Pradesh		report not received			
24.	West Bengal	Nil	1316	1272	(as on 31.3.91)	
25.	A & N Islands	Nil	6	24	(as on 21.8.91)	
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	(as on 20.8.91)	
27.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	1	(as on 20.8.91)	
28.	Delhi	2267	2549	1477	(as on 20.8.91)	
29.	Chandigarh	142	662	530	(as on 22.8.91)	
30.	Lakshadweep	Nil	3	4	(as on 19.8.91)	
31.	Pondicherry	46	101	63	(as on 30.6.91)	

[*Translation*]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the reply that I got to my question, I feel that all the responsibilities of Consumer Protection Act have been handed over to the States and the district fora. According to the figures and the information provided to me, it appears that there is disposal of only a few cases out of those filed; because the district fora.....

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kashi Ram Rana, please ask the question.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am coming to the question, that the number of cases disposed is much less as compared to the number of cases filed because the attendance of three Members in District Forum is compulsory. No hearing can be conducted unless three Members are present. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of cases disposed of and solved so far out of the figures made available about the cases filed. I would like to have a definite information from the hon. Minister in this regard.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: It is a fact that the speed with which the enquiry is going on in the cases filed in District Fora is not upto the mark; but all the same I would like to say, that the presence of three Members is not now essential in the forum, because recently we have passed an amendment to the Act last month under which the proceedings can be carried out even in the presence of two Members. But there is a practical difficulty in case of appointment of the Chairman of District Fora. There is a condition with regard to the Chairman that he should either be a working District Judge or Ex-District Judge. The condition has been prescribed in the rules. Because of this they are not able to devote more time. However, we are considering all the aspects. Speaking on the last amendment, he gave us very good suggestions and we are considering those suggestions and I believe that we will be very shortly making some amendment in Consumer Protection Act. So many sugges-

tions are under the consideration of its working group, and I believe that there will not be any difficulty now. The figures of the cases disposed of till now are not available with me right now. I will send the statewise disposed of cases to the hon. Member later on.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, cases should be solved within three months, but it has been observed that the disposal of one case takes a period of 6 to 8 months. According to the statement made by the Chairman of District Commission located in our area, they are not able to implement this law in an effective manner. So through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the provision of this Act regarding disposal of cases within three months, will be implemented and the time by which the working group set up in 1988 would submit its recommendations.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a meeting of the Consumers Protection Council would be held next month and I believe that the working Group would be submitting its recommendations very soon. Besides, we fully agree with the fact that the machinery should be geared up so that the disposal of the complaints should be expedited; otherwise the object of redressal will be defeated. Therefore, we are trying to do so as early as possible and we are constituting the machinery very soon.

[*English*]

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Sir, according to the present law, all the districts in the country do not have the consumer protection courts. Recently, the Supreme Court has given a direction that within six weeks, all the districts should have such a court. Is the Government going to implement this decision of the Supreme Court in all the districts?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, it is true that according to the Supreme Court's order, all the districts have to form a forum before the end of October. Some date of October has been given.

We have addressed letters to all the States to form the district forums in accordance with the Supreme Court's order.

What the Hon. Member says is somewhat correct because in a number of States, there are very many districts which are yet to form the district forum and we are after that.

KUMARI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA: Sir, according to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the cases are registered up to Rs. 1 lakhs at a district forum and up to Rs. 10 lakh at a State Commission. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that looking at the present devaluation situation of the rupee, will the Government increase the limit of registering the case at the district and State levels?

If so, when; and if not, why not?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, the hon. Member has correctly said that the pecuniary jurisdiction of all these forums including the State and National Commissions is explained in the Act itself. Of course, with the big rate of inflation, the pecuniary jurisdiction needs to be revived and I hope, when we come with an amendment to the Consumer Protection Act, this point will also be taken into consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: This as an assurance.

SHRI PÁWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, certain Government Departments like the Posts and Telegraphs Departments are putting forth the plea that they are not covered by the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act. If that is so, the very purpose of the Act is defeated because a large number of people are affected by it. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps is he taking in this regard.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: There is no exception at all to any Government or non-Government organisations. The Act applies to all including the Government Departments and if such a plea has been taken by a particular Telephone Department, we will look into the matter. I can

assure that the services covered by all the Government Departments also come under the ambit of the Consumer Protection Act.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is that the UP, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh Governments have not even cared to reply as to how many cases are pending and what action have been taken by them. Really speaking, this Act is not functioning at all in Uttar Pradesh. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether or not he is aware that there is a Consumer Interest Protection Council which is a voluntary body. And they have submitted a memorandum recently to the Government. Will the suggestions made in that memorandum be taken care of when the Government will take a final decision?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, even yesterday the delegation has come to see me. They have brought to my notice about a number of problems which they are facing particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh. I will look into them. As I said, we are looking into the working of the whole Act during the last six years as to how this Act has been able to give protection to the consumers. So, we are examining this aspect and I can assure the hon. Member that we will look into their memorandum and all the aspects in it submitted by the voluntary organisation referred to by him.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the hon. Minister has assured the House that the High Power Working Groups recommendations will be submitted and a decision will be taken during the next month. Now, I want to know as to which are the important suggestions on which the High Power Committee is deliberating upon.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: I did not say that the Working Group will give the recommendations next month. What I said was that the Consumer Protection Council meeting is going to be held in the next month and we are going to discuss and decide many things in that Council meeting. The Working Group has taken cognizance of a

number of problems about the working of the Consumer Protection Act which includes certain amendments also which we are going to suggest. I hope the work of the Working Group will be completed soon. Among the recommendations which they are going to make, we will accept whatever recommendations we can accept and come to the hon. House with some amendments to the Act.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I was asking about the important suggestions.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, the nature of the Act is only compensatory. It is not a penal sort of legislation. A number of suggestions have come to make it more effective and there may be some provisions also to penalise the offender. I do not know about such provisions. We have to examine the whole thing.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHAN: Sir, in 1980, the DMK Government has not cared to write to the Central Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any complaints have been received under the Consumer Protection Act. There have been complaints that some big chocolate companies are using certain materials for purposes other than intended for. Since this aspect involves the welfare of the children, I would like to know whether any report in this regard has come to the notice of the Ministry and whether the Government have taken any action on these big chocolate companies.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I will have to look into it and find out whether we have received any complaints with regard to chocolate companies.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Nuclear Reactor in Kerala

*593. **SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a nuclear reactor in Kerala;

(b) if so, the total cost of the project;

(c) the time schedule for completion of the project; and

(d) the quantum of power likely to be generated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). A Technical Committee constituted by Department of Atomic Energy carried out preliminary exploratory investigations of sites in Kerala proposed by Kerala State Electricity Board. Selection of sites for nuclear power plants has to go through a process of detailed investigations and review by bodies like Site Selection Committee, Atomic Energy Commission, Union Ministry of Environment and Forests. Besides, setting up of any new projects will have to be consistent with the resources and plan allocations. The points on total cost, time schedule and quantum of power in regard to a nuclear power project in Kerala, therefore, do not arise at this stage as no decision has been taken by the Government in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Nomination of State Civil Service Officers to Indian Administrative Service

*594. **SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of quota fixed for nomination of officers of the State Civil Services to the Indian Administrative Service;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the percentage of the quota keeping in view the limited number of promotional opportunities of officers of the State Civil Services;