

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4549
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006
FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONSUMER CASES
Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Rana Shri Kashi Ram

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide free legal assistance to poor and deprived sections of the society to reach out the benefits of Consumer Protection Act to them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) to (c): No Sir, However persons living Below Poverty Line holding Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards are exempted from payment of fee for filing complaint under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 in a District Forum for claim upto Rs. 1.00 lac. In addition, poor and deprived Sections of the society are provided with free legal services for filing or defending cases including consumer cases under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.