

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:132

ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006

CONSUMER COURTS

Appadurai Shri M.;Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep;Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Mahato Shri Bir Sing

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

- (a) the number of consumer courts functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (b) the features and functions of the said courts;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for popularizing these courts among the masses particularly in rural areas;
- (d) the number of posts of Chairman and Members of various consumer fora lying vacant as on date; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies?

**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) : At present, there exist 600 District Fora, 35 State Commissions and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), as the apex Consumer Forum in the Country. State-wise details of functional consumer fora is given at Annexure-I.

(b) : To provide speedy, inexpensive and simple redressal to consumer disputes/ grievances a three-tier quasi-judicial machinery is set up under the provisions of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 at each District, State and National levels called District Forum, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission respectively.

The District Fora are headed by a person who is or has been or is eligible to be appointed as a District Judge and the State Commissions are headed by a person who is or has been a Judge of High Court. The National Commission, which is the apex body is headed by a sitting or retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The provisions of this Act cover all goods and `Services`. Accordingly, a written complaint can be filed before the District Forum (for claims up to Rs. 20 lakhs), State Commission (for claims above Rs. 20 lakhs and up to Rs. 1 crore ), National Commission (for claims above Rs. 1 crore) against any defect in the goods or deficiencies in the services availed other than for commercial purposes. The Consumer Fora are required to follow the principles of natural justice. Proceedings are summary in nature and endeavour is made to grant relief in a time bound manner.

(c) : In order to ensure that the message of consumer protection reaches every citizen of the country, the Department has been undertaking multi media publicity programmes.

(d) : The State-wise position of number of posts of Presidents and Members of various consumer fora lying vacant as on date is given at Annexure-II.

(e) : The State/UT Governments are responsible for the selection and appointment of President/Members of the State Commissions and District Fora. The issue regarding filling up of vacant posts of President/ Members in the consumer fora in the States/UTs is reviewed by this Department with the State/UT Governments. All State Governments have been requested to give highest priority to filing up of vacancies and maintain a panel for immediate appointment.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (a) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 132 FOR 20/02/2006 REGARDING CONSUMER COURT

INFORMATION REGARDING FUNCTION/NON-FUNCTIONAL(DISTRICT FORUM)

Date 15.02.2006

S.1 No. States No of Functional Non- As On  
District Fora Functional

1. Andhra Pradesh 29 29 0 31.12.2005
2. A & N Islands 2 2 0 30.6.2004
3. Arunachal Pradesh 15 15 0 30.11.2004
4. Assam 23 23 0 30.09.2004
5. Bihar 37 37 0 31.10.2005
6. Chandigarh 2 2 0 30.09.2005
- 7 Chattisgarh 16 16 0 30.06.2005
8. D & N Haveli/  
Daman & Diu 2 2 0 31.12.2004
9. Delhi 10 10 0 30.09.2005
- 10 Goa 2 2 0 31.12.2005
- 11 Gujrat 26 19 7 30.09.2005
- 12 Haryana 19 19 0 31.12.2005
- 13 Himanchal Pradesh 12 12 0 30.11.2005
- 14 Jammu & Kashmir 2 2 0 31.12.2005
- 15 Jharkhand 22 22 0 30.06.2005
- 16 Karnataka 30 30 0 30.11.2005
- 17 Kerala 14 13 1 30.09.2005
- 18 Lakshadweep 1 1 0 31.12.2005
- 19 Madhya Pradesh 45 43 2 30.09.2005
- 20 Maharashtra 34 34 0 30.09.2005
- 21 Manipur 8 8 0 30.06.2000
- 22 Meghalaya 7 7 0 30.06.2005
- 23 Mizoram 8 8 0 30.06.2005
- 24 Nagaland 11 8 3 30.06.2005
- 25 Orissa 31 31 0 30.06.2005
- 26 Pondicherry 1 1 0 30.11.2005
- 27 Punjab 17 17 0 30.11.2005
- 28 Rajasthan 33 33 0 31.10.2005
- 29 Sikkim 4 4 0 30.06.2005
- 30 Tamilnadu 30 30 0 31.10.2005
- 31 Tripura 3 3 0 30.11.2005
- 32 Uttar Pradesh 70 70 0 31.10.2005
- 33 Uttaranchal 13 12 1 31.12.2005
- 34 West Bengal 21 21 0 30.06.2005

Total 600 586 14

## ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (a) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 132 FOR 20/02/2006  
REGARDING CONSUMER COUTS

### INFORMATION REGARDING VACANCY POSITIONS IN THE STATE COMMISSIONS AND DISTRICT FORUMS

Date 15.02.2006

Sl.No.	States	State	District	Forum	As On
		Commission	President	Member	

1	Andhra Pradesh	2	Member	2	0	31.12.2005
2.	A & N Islands	No Vacancy	0	0	0	30.6.2004
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Member	0	6	31.10.2004
4.	Assam	No Vacancy	0	14	0	30.09.2004
5.	Bihar	No Vacancy	0	12	0	30.11.2005
6.	Chandigarh	No Vacancy	0	0	0	30.09.2005
7	Chattisgarh	No Vacancy	0	9	0	30.11.2005
8.	D & N Haveli	No Vacancy	0	0	0	31.12.2005
9	Daman & Diu	No Vacancy	0	0	0	31.12.2004
10.	Delhi	No Vacancy	1	0	0	30.11.2005
11	Goa	No Vacancy	0	1	0	31.12.2005
12	Gujrat	1	Member	9	20	30.11.2005
13	Haryana	No Vacancy	4	28	0	31.12.2005
14	Himanchal Pradesh	No Vacancy	1	0	0	30.11.2005
15	Jammu & Kashmir	1	President	0	0	31.8.2005

1 Member

16 Jharkhand No Vacancy 0 1 30.06.2005  
17 Karnataka No Vacancy 2 1 30.11.2005  
18 Kerala 1 Member 5 6 30.11.2005  
19 Lakshadweep 1 Member 0 1 31.12.2005  
20 Madhya Pradesh 1 Member 1 34 30.09.2005  
21 Maharashtra No Vacancy 0 8 30.09.2005  
22 Manipur All Vacant 31.01.2003  
23 Meghalaya President 0 0 30.06.2005  
24 Mizoram President 0 0 30.06.2005  
25 Nagaland No Vacancy 0 0 30.06.2005  
26 Orissa No Vacancy 1 2 30.06.2005  
27 Pondicherry No Vacancy 0 0 30.11.2005  
28 Punjab No Vacancy 1 3 31.12.2005  
29 Rajasthan No Vacancy 0 9 30.11.2005  
30 Sikkim No Vacancy 0 0 30.06.2005  
31 Tamilnadu No Vacancy 0 17 30.11.2005  
32 Tripura No Vacancy 0 0 30.09.2005  
33 Uttar Pradesh No Vacancy 13 24 30.11.2005  
34 Uttaranchal No Vacancy 0 4 30.09.2005  
35 West Bengal 1 Member 0 3 30.11.2005  
Lady

Total 4 Pres. 40 203

11 Member