

74

**COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2017-2018)**

**SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA
SEVENTY-FOURTH REPORT**

**REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES
PERTAINING TO THE MINISTRY OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER
AFFAIRS)**

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 05 April, 2018)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

April, 2018/Chaitra, 1940 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

April, 2018/Chaitra, 1940 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2017-2018)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal “Nishank” — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Tariq Anwar
5. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
6. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya
7. Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer**
8. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
9. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
10. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
11. Shri C.R. Patil
12. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
13. Shri K.C. Venugopal
14. Shri S.R. Vijayakumar
15. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri U.B.S. Negi	—	<i>Joint Secretary</i>
2. Shri P.C. Tripathy	—	<i>Director</i>
3. Shri S.L. Singh	—	<i>Deputy Secretary</i>

* The Committee has been re-constituted *w.e.f.* 01 September, 2017 *vide* Para No. 5800 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 18 September, 2017.

** Nominated to the Committee *vide* Para No. 6261 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 08 January, 2018 *vice* Shri P.K. Kunhalikutty resigned on 02 January, 2018.

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(2016-2017)

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10. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
11. Shri C.R. Patil
12. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
13. Shri Taslimuddin
14. Shri K.C. Venugopal
15. Shri S.R. Vijaya Kumar

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.S. Kambo	—	<i>Additional Secretary</i>
2. Shri P.C. Tripathy	—	<i>Director</i>
3. Shri S.L. Singh	—	<i>Deputy Secretary</i>

* The Committee has been re-constituted *w.e.f.* 01 September, 2016 *vide* Para No. 4075 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 05 September, 2016.

[®] Shri E. Ahmed passed away on 01.02.2017.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances (2017-18), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Seventy-fourth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2016-17) at their sitting held on 09 March, 2017 took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) regarding pending Assurances from the 3rd Session of the 15th Lok Sabha to the 9th Session of the 16th Lok Sabha.

3. At their sitting held on 04 April, 2018 the Committee (2017-2018) considered and adopted their Seventy-fourth Report.

4. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form part of this Report.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
04 April, 2018

14 Chaitra, 1940 (Saka)

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL “NISHANK”,
Chairperson,
Committee on Government Assurances.

REPORT

I. Introductory

The Committee on Government Assurances scrutinize the Assurances, promises, undertakings etc. given by the Ministers from time to time on the floor of the House and report to the extent to which such Assurances, promises, undertakings etc. have been implemented. Once an Assurance has been given on the floor of the House, the same is required to be implemented within three months. The Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are under obligation to seek extension of time, if they are unable to fulfil the Assurance within the prescribed period of three months. Where a Ministry/Departments are unable to implement an Assurance, that Ministry/Departments are required to move the Committee for dropping it. The Committee consider such requests and approve dropping, if they are convinced that the grounds cited are justified. The Committee also examine whether the implementation of Assurances has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose and the Committee also look into the extent to which the Assurances have been implemented.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-2010) took a policy decision to call the representatives of the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, in a phased manner, to review the pending Assurances, examine the reasons for pendency and analyze the operation of the system prescribed in the Ministries/Departments for dealing with Assurances. The Committee also decided to consider the quality of Assurances implemented by the Government.

3. The Committee on Government Assurances (2014-2015) decided to follow the well established and time tested procedure of calling the representatives of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, in a phased manner and review the pending Assurances. The Committee took a step further for expeditious implementation of pending Assurances and decided to call the representatives of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs also as all the Assurances are implemented through them.

4. In pursuance of the *ibid* decision, the Committee on Government Assurances (2016-2017) invited representatives of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) and the representatives of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to render clarification with respect to delay in implementation of the 12 pending Assurances given during the period from the 3rd session of the 15th Lok Sabha to the 9th session of the 16th Lok Sabha at their sitting held on 09.03.2017 (Appendices-I to XII).

5. However, the representatives of the Department of Consumer Affairs were unable to render clarifications with regard to the queries raised on certain Assurances. The Committee, therefore, examined the following 05 Assurances in

detail at the above-mentioned sitting and decided to postpone the oral evidence on the remaining Assurances to the next sitting of the Committee with the representatives of the Department of Consumer Affairs:

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	USQ No. 3803 dated 14.12.2009	Import of Pulses (Appendix-I)
2.	General Discussion dated 25.02.2010 (Smt. Sushma Swaraj, M.P.)	Price Rise (Appendix-II)
3.	SQ No. 20 dated 13.03.2012	Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies (Appendix-III)
4.	USQ No. 7398 dated 22.05.2012	Consumer Protection Act (Appendix-IV)
5.	USQ No. 5569 dated 30.04.2013	Export of Agricultural Commodities (Appendix-V)

6. The Extracts from Manual of Practice and Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs laying guidelines on the definition of an Assurance, the time limit for its fulfilment, dropping/deletion and extension, the procedure for fulfilment etc., besides maintenance of Register of Assurances and periodical reviews to minimize delays in implementation of the Assurances are reproduced at Appendix-XIII.

7. During the oral evidence, the Committee enquired about the procedure being adopted in the Department of Consumer Affairs for periodical review of pending Assurances at different levels with a view to fulfilling them within the time limit prescribed for the purpose. The Committee also desired to know about the mechanism available for implementation of the Assurances. The Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) conveyed that fortnightly reviews are normally done at Senior Officers level and regular monthly reviews are also undertaken at Divisional Officer level. Further, a standing mechanism already exists in the Ministry for monitoring of pending Assurances.

8. Subsequently, the Assurances mentioned at Appendices I and II have since been implemented on 08.08.2017 and the Assurance mentioned at Appendix XI has since been implemented on 06.04.2017. Two more Assurances mentioned at Appendices VIII and IX have also since been implemented on 22.12.2017. Further, the Assurance mentioned at Appendix VI has since been dropped on 09.03.2017 while the Assurance mentioned at Appendix V has been transferred to the Ministry of Finance.

Observations/Recommendations

9. The Committee note that out of 12 pending Assurances, the Assurance mentioned at Appendices I and II could only be implemented even after a period of

more than seven years. While three Assurances mentioned at Appendices VIII, IX and XI were implemented after delays ranging from more than 5 months to two years, another five Assurances are still pending for implementation even after a lapse of more than one and half years to six years. The inordinate delay in fulfilment of the Assurances clearly indicates lackadaisical attitude of the Department in undertaking proper follow-up action once an Assurance has been made. The Committee are perturbed at the extent of pendency and inordinate delay in fulfilment of the Assurances by the Department of Consumer Affairs because of which the utility and relevance of the Assurances are lost. This also proves that the existing system of conducting fortnightly and monthly review meetings to review implementation of the Assurances in the Department has been ineffective. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the existing mechanism in the Department should be overhauled with a view to avoiding delays in the fulfilment of Assurances. Further, the Department needs to make concerted and vigorous efforts to accelerate the pace of implementation of the Assurances. The Committee desire that the Department of Consumer Affairs should adopt a pro-active approach and with all concerned for early/timely implementation of all the pending Assurances.

II. Review of Pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs)

10. In the succeeding paragraphs, the Committee deal with some of the important pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry.

A. Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies

11. In reply to the SQ No. 20 dated 13.03.2012 regarding 'Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies' (Appendix-III), it was *inter alia* stated that the scheme of 'Computerization and Computer Networking of Consumer Fora in the country (CONFONET)' was launched during the 10th Plan period in March 2005 at a cost of Rs. 48.64 crore. Under the scheme, the Consumer Fora at all the three tiers throughout the country were to be fully computerized to enable access of information and quicker disposal of cases. The project is being implemented by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) on a turnkey basis. The scheme has been extended during the 11th Plan with a total outlay of Rs. 25.60 crore. In the extended period project, stress was being laid upon continued HR support by means of Technical Support Personnels (TSPs) and training for eventual adoption of the system by the Consumer Fora themselves. During the year 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 0.75 crore has been released to NIC for the activities to be undertaken under "CONFONET" Project in the 11th Plan. As on January 2012, out of 638 locations being covered, the CONFONET scheme is operational in 342 Consumer Fora. 268 Consumer Fora are uploading cause lists while 186 Consumer Fora are uploading judgments.

12. In their Status Note furnished in March, 2017, the Department of Consumer Affairs apprised the Committee of the following position with regard to the fulfilment of the Assurance as under:—

"No detail of receiving of this Assurance has been found with the Department of Consumer Affairs. Lok Sabha Secretariat is being requested to provide details of Assurances."

13. However, the Committee's records reveal that soon after the end of the 10th Session of the 15th Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs had in 2012 communicated to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution informing them about the above reply being treated as an Assurance and the need to fulfil it. Subsequently, the Committee on Government Assurances Secretariat pursued the matter and sent reminders on 01.11.2014 and 25.05.2016 asking the Ministry to expedite implementation of the Assurance.

14. During Oral Evidence, the Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs requested the Committee to let him know the context in which the Assurance has been made. When the Committee explained that the Assurance related to compilation of information most of which are online, the Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs submitted during evidence as under:—

"The work regarding providing the online information is still under progress. There are more than 600 consumer forums."

15. On being pointed out that the Ministry would already be in the possession of all these data/figures, the Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs deposed as under:—

"At present we are working on the task relating to hardware component."

Observations/Recommendations

16. The Committee anguished to note that even after more than six years since giving the Assurance in reply to SQ No. 20 dated 13.03.2012 regarding 'Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies' and the matter being pursued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Committee themselves for expediting implementation of the Assurance with reference, the Department of Consumer Affairs were not aware about the details of the Assurance. Even though, the Assurance involved a mere compilation of some basic information which can be done without consuming much time, the Committee regret to note that the same is yet to be compiled even after a lapse of more than 6 years. This reflects only the lackadaisical attitude and systemic failure of the Department in dealing with Parliamentary Assurances. Obviously, the Department did not make concerted efforts to collect/collate the requisite information due to which the Assurance continues to remain pending. The Committee were informed that there are more than 600 Consumer Forums in the country and the work regarding providing the information online is still under progress. Besides, the work relating to hardware component is also under progress. While expressing disappointment at the tardy manner in which these works are being implemented, the Committee recommend the Department to expedite the whole process and ensure expeditious implementation of the Assurance within a stipulated time period. The Committee would also like the Ministry to tone up their extant system/mechanism so that appropriate and timely follow up action is duly taken by them in respect of all the assurances.

B. Consumer Protection Act

17. In reply to USQ No. 7398 dated 22.05.2012 regarding 'Consumer Protection Act' (Appendix-IV), it was stated that the Government is proposing to expand the coverage of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 by amending it. When the amendment is passed, the consumer can make online complaints sitting at home without having to go to the Consumer Fora.

18. In their Status Note furnished in March 2017, the Department of Consumer Affairs apprised the Committee about the Assurance as under:—

"The Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha has been requested to drop this Assurance as the Consumers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2011 had lapsed due to dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha."

19. In his deposition before the Committee during oral evidence, the Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, however, submitted the following status of the fulfilment of the Assurance:—

"Hopefully final law is about to come. A new Bill regarding Consumer Protection has already been introduced in Parliament in 2015 and after being scrutinised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, the final law will be framed during the ongoing session."

20. On being asked about the time by which the consumer complaints system would become online, the Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs replied during evidence as under:—

"There was no provision of e-commerce or online commerce in the 1986 Act but the Ministry is in the process of bringing such a Bill in the current Session."

Observations/Recommendations

21. The Committee are perturbed that the Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 7398 dated 22.05.2012 regarding 'Consumer Protection Act' could not be fulfilled even after more than five and a half years. The Committee note that the Assurance was regarding the proposal for amending the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to expand its coverage which will facilitate the consumers to make online complaints without having to go to the Consumer Forums. However, instead of making earnest efforts to implement the Assurance, the Department has requested the Committee to drop the Assurance on the ground that the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2011 had lapsed due to dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha which the Committee feel is neither a valid nor a justifiable reason for dropping the Assurance. The Committee were informed during evidence that after being scrutinised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, the final Law will be framed during the Budget Session 2017. The Committee have further been informed that there was no provision of e-commerce or online commerce in the 1986 Act, but the Department is in the process of bringing such a Bill in that Session. The Committee feel that the Department needs to strive harder to achieve better results. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to put in place an

effective mechanism for implementing such Assurances in a time bound manner so that things do not get stuck up and there is no inordinate delay in fulfilling the Assurances. Now that the Bill has been introduced, the Committee would like the Ministry to lay the requisite Implementation Report without further delay.

III. Implementation Reports

22. As per the Statements of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Implementation Reports in respect of the following Assurances given in replies to the following SQs/USQs have since been laid on the Table of the House on the dates as mentioned against each:

Appendix I	USQ No. 3803 dated 14.12.2009	08.08.2017
Appendix II	General Discussion dated 25.02.2010 (Smt. Sushma Swaraj, M.P.)	08.08.2017
Appendix VIII	USQ No. 2325 dated 04.08.2015	22.12.2017
Appendix IX	SQ No. 222 dated 10.05.2016	22.12.2017
Appendix XI	SQ No. 224 dated 02.08.2016 (Supplementary by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, M.P.)	06.04.2017

NEW DELHI;
04 April, 2018
14 Chaitra, 1940 (Saka)

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK"
Chairperson,
Committee on Government Assurances.

APPENDIX I
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3803
ANSWERED ON 14.12.2009

Import of Pulses

3803. SHRI RAM SUNDAR DAS:
SHRI ARJUN MUNDA:
SHRI P. KUMAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding rate of import of pulses *vis-a-vis* the rate at which they are available in the domestic market during the current year;
- (b) whether large amount of pulses imported from foreign countries in 2008-09 are already delayed and/or being wasted at the Kolkata port;
- (c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

APPENDIX II

General Discussion dt. 25.2.2010

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Madam Speaker, I have been carefully listening to the discussions in the House on rise in the prices of essential commodities. At the outset, I would like to share the concern of all the hon. Members who have expressed over the escalation of food prices which we have witnessed in the last few months.

This is a serious issue which impacts the livelihood of many, particularly masses, and has been engaging the attention of the Government also. जो कुछ कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है, उन्हें उठाने की कोशिश इस सरकार की ओर से हमेशा होती रही है। इससे पहले जो डिस्कशन हुए, उनसे जो सूचना आई, उन्हें स्वीकार करने का प्रयास हमेशा सरकार ने किया, फिर चाहे एसेंश्यल कमोडिटीज में सुधार करके, राज्यों को ज्यादा अधिकार देने की बात हो या फूड ग्रेन्स की एलोकेशन करने का सवाल है..... (व्यवधान) फूड ग्रेन्स के स्टॉक की जो अच्छी पोजीशन है और बफर स्टॉक के नॉर्म्स को मद्देनजर रखते हुए, सरकार के गोदामों में जो ज्यादा माल है, उसे हर राज्य को देने के लिए, अलग-अलग किस्म के निर्णय भारत सरकार के माध्यम से लेने की भी कोशिश की गई।

महोदया, एक सुझाव आया था कि प्रधान मंत्री महोदय को प्राइस राइस के इश्यु पर देश के सारे मुख्य मंत्रियों की एक मीटिंग बुलानी चाहिए और उसमें राज्य सरकार के जो कुछ सुझाव हों, उन्हें जहां तक स्वीकार कर सकते हैं, उन्हें स्वीकार करना चाहिए। इस सुझाव पर प्रधान मंत्री जी ने देश के सभी मुख्य मंत्रियों की बैठक बुलाई और पूरे दिन, देश के हर मुख्य मंत्री ने अपने विचार और अपने अनुभव मीटिंग में रखे और आगे की जो स्ट्रेटेजी तय करनी है, उसे तय करने के लिए कुछ राज्यों के मुख्य मंत्री और सेंट्रल गवर्नर्मेंट के मिनिस्टर्स को मिलाकर एक समिति गठित कर के, इसके टर्म्स ऑफ रैफरेंस भी तय किए गए हैं।

शायद आप इसको स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार नहीं होंगे, जो भाषण सुनने के बाद मेरा कहने का मन हो रहा है, जिसका जिक्र बसुदेव आचार्य जी ने किया, प्रधानमंत्री जी के बयान के बारे में कुछ कहा, उन्होंने मुख्यमंत्रियों की बैठक में कहा था कि the worst time is over and the situation will improve. प्रतिपक्ष की नेता ने मार्केट के कुछ आंकड़े सदन के सामने रखे। मुझे देखना होगा, मैं उनकी तरफ से वे आंकड़े लूंगा, सोर्स भी लूंगा और ज्यादा जानकारी लेने की कोशिश जरूर करूंगा। मेरे पास हर दिन देश की सभी मार्केट्स की फिगर्स आती हैं। इस समय कई दिनों से, कई हप्ते से एक ट्रेंड देख रहा हूं कि कई आवश्यक चीजों के दामों पर असर हो रहा है। दाम कम होने की प्रक्रिया शुरू हुयी है। ... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: कृपया उनकी बात सुनिए। ... (व्यवधान)

श्री शरद पवार: मेरे हाथ में 24 फरवरी का दिल्ली का फाइनैशियल एक्सप्रेस है। The Financial Express of 24th February says: "Prospects of better rabi yield soften pulses and vegetable prices". उन्होंने कॉलम करके हर ... (व्यवधान)

श्री अनंत गंगाराम गीते (रायगढ़): यह न्यूज पेपर को कोट कर रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: आप बैठ जाइए। ... (व्यवधान)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, how can they disturb the hon. Minister like this? ... (Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: मुलायम सिंह जी, आप बैठ जाइए। .. (व्यवधान)

श्री शरद पवार: मैं यह जानता हूं कि क्राइसिस कम होने की जो प्रक्रिया चली है, यह न्यूज आपके लिए कड़वी है। यह मैं जानता हूं। ... (व्यवधान) मैं सरकारी इनकार्मेशन देने के लिए भी तैयार हूं अखबार की भी देने के लिए तैयार हूं। ... (व्यवधान) अमर उजाला का दिल्ली का ईश्यू 24 फरवरी, बुधवार – देश में सस्ती होने लगी दालें। इस पोर्शन पर उन्होंने डिटेल रिपोर्ट दी है।

The Hindustan Times, Delhi of 24th February says: "Delhi Government's intervention brings down Dal prices and other commodities' prices." *The Financial Express* says: "Prices of the vegetables, pulses and other items are on the decline". *The Business Line* of 21st February says: "Cheaper cereals and vegetables signal easing of inflation. ये सब रिपोर्ट आजकल अखबार में आ रही हैं, मैं वहां तक नहीं जा रहा। ... (व्यवधान)

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (मैनपुरी): आंकड़े सुनकर हम परेशान हैं। इससे कोई समाधान नहीं होगा। ... (व्यवधान)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. (Interruptions) ... (Not recorded)

(तत्पश्चात् श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव, श्री लालू प्रसाद और कुछ अन्य माननीय सदस्य सभा से बाहर चले गए) ... (व्यवधान)

(At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Nama Nageswara Rao and some other hon. Members left the House.) ... (Interruptions)

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: मैडम, इन्होंने दो दिन हाउस नहीं चलने दिया और कहते रहे कि इस पर चर्चा चाहते हैं। आज चर्चा होने लगी तो ये हालत है। उनकी बात नहीं सुनना चाहते हैं। ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Government of India has got a special cell under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs which collects daily figures of many items, at least 17 items, and which reports to the concerned Ministry.

One point raised here by the hon. Leader of the Opposition is that price of rice has gone somewhat near to Rs. 32 per kilogram. On 24.11.09—this is Delhi market retail price that I am giving — the price of rice was Rs. 23 per kilogram. One

month back, it was Rs. 23. One week back, it was Rs. 23. Yesterday also, it was Rs. 23. What I am trying to say is that prices had stabilised at Rs. 23 and not Rs. 32 ...*(Interruptions)* I will definitely come back. ...*(Interruptions)*.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (विदेशा): मैंने 32 नहीं कहा, 25 कहा था। आपने मेरे आंकड़े का सोर्स जानना चाहा है। मेरा सोर्स मेरे स्वयं का राशन का बिल है, मेरा सोर्स मेरे स्वयं का सब्जियों का बिल है। क्योंकि बिल में छोटा-छोटा लिखा हुआ था, इसलिए मैं टाइप करवाकर लाई थी। यह परसों के आंकड़े हैं। ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please maintain order. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition had given one particular figure for atta. My information about atta is this. Three months back, the price of atta was Rs. 17 per kilogram. One month back, it was Rs. 17.5. One week back, it was Rs. 17. Yesterday also, it was Rs. 17.

Now, I come to gram dal. Three months back, its price was Rs. 40 per kilogram. One month back, it was Rs. 39. One week back, it was at Rs. 37. Yesterday, it was Rs. 36.

Then, tur dal's price three months back was Rs. 91 per kilogram. One month back, it was Rs. 87. One week back, it was Rs. 76. Yesterday, it was Rs. 73.5.

The price of urad dal three months back was Rs. 77 per kilogram. One months back, it was Rs. 74. One week back, it was Rs. 68. Yesterday, it was Rs. 67. So the price of urad dal has come down from Rs. 77 to Rs. 67. Similarly the price of masur dal has come down from Rs. 69 to Rs. 59.

For sugar, I can give market figures of yesterday. In Delhi, it was Rs. 41. Those who know about the sugar, sugar industry and sugarcane, they know the details also. There are also some of the hon. Members who are sitting on the Opposition side, who are very knowledgeable. They are also running sugar mills and they also know all these details, and they will accept one thing that the trend is that sugar prices are also going down. Yesterday, in major States of UP and Maharashtra, and particularly Maharashtra, the S-30 sugar has been sold at Rs. 3,140 a quintal which was Rs. 4,600 one month back. So, this clearly indicates that sugar prices are also going down.

श्रीमती रमा देवी (शिवहर): वह पहले क्यों महंगी हुई? ...*(व्यवधान)*

श्री शरद पवार: मैं उस पर आता हूं। मैं वहां तक जरूर आऊंगा। आलू की बात यहां बहुत कही गयी। आज आलू की स्थिति ऐसी है कि the price of potato three-months back was Rs. 19; its price one-month back was Rs. 10; and its price one-week back was Rs. 9. Today its price in Uttar Pradesh is Rs. 4.50 and in West Bengal it is Rs. 2. ...*(Interruptions)* In fact, I met a delegation under the leadership of Shri Basu Deb Acharia कि वैस्ट बंगाल में जिस तरह से आलू के दाम गिर रहे हैं, उसे देखते हुए वहां के किसानों को बचाने के लिए भारत सरकार को आलू परचेज करने के लिए हमारे साथ सहयोग देने की आवश्यकता है। आज हमारी मीटिंग होने वाली थी, लेकिन वह हो नहीं सकी। कल या परसों वह मीटिंग हो जायेगी। मैं भारत सरकार

की तरफ से अपने सब लैप्ट साथियों को आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूं कि वहां जो आलू की कीमत कम हो रही है, उसमें भारत सरकार की तरफ से किसानों को बचाने के लिए जो मदद चाहिए, उसे हम पूरी तरह से देंगे। हम इस रास्ते पर जाने के लिए तैयार हैं। ... (व्यवधान) यही सिचुएशन ओनियन की है। ... (व्यवधान)

श्री हरिन पाठक (अहमदाबाद पूर्व): मुझे समझ में नहीं आता ... (व्यवधान)

श्री शरद पवार: कीमत तो कम हो गयी। ... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: हरिन पाठक जी, आप बैठ जाइये। आप मंत्री जी को बोलने दीजिए। ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: So, I have collected all the prices from all the States, but I do not want to go into the details about this.

I had said that it is correct that the situation was quite serious as it had affected masses and effected many people in this country. The Government was also equally worried and equally serious and many actions were taken by the Government. Firstly, our total long-term effort was to see how we can improve the agriculture production and productivity and I will go into the details about what exact action has been taken, but immediate actions were needed in this. What have we done in this? Firstly, it was our responsibility—when there was a mismatch between demand and supply—to see that how we will be able to improve availability. Policy-decisions were taken to encourage imports and simultaneously discourage exports for the sake of improving availability.

The hon. Leader of Opposition has given some information about simultaneous import and export. I will come back and give details about that also. ... (Interruptions) In certain cases, subsidy has been given to the Public Sector units to import and distribute some of the commodities through the PDS. My senior colleague, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Finance Minister has given details about what subsidy we are providing today for edible oil; what subsidy we are providing today for pulses; what is available in the PDS; and how it is comparatively cheaper than all others. Hence, I will not take the time of the House to mention these.

The Government of India has given considerable support to the Public Distribution System to ensure that the vulnerable sections of the country are protected and one of the most important things is that since the year 2002 till today the issue price of wheat and rice has not been changed for AAY, BPL and APL. We have provided substantial rise to the farming community, but these prices have not been changed till today.

My colleague, the Finance Minister, has given some details about this year's overall situation.

This year, the hon. Members will recollect, in the last Session, we had discussed at length the issue about the situation arising out of poor monsoon and its impact

on the production and productivity. It was reported that it was one of the worst droughts that we had seen after 1972. Some of the States had taken immediate action. The State Governments declared a total of 333 districts as under drought. These States are Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, UP, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Orissa, Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh. These State Governments had declared that all these districts were affected because of the poor monsoon.

The States of Maharashtra and Karnataka have faced another calamity. Initially, there was a serious situation because of drought. It had affected the sowing operation of paddy, it had affected the sowing operation of oilseeds and it had affected the sowing operation of pulses. However, in Maharashtra and Karnataka, there were sudden rains also. The rains were such that they had affected the entire agriculture, many houses were affected in Shri Geete's area and we have witnessed a similar situation in Karnataka because of floods. We have been a similar situation in one part of Andhra Pradesh too.

Irrespective of this, initially, our report was that we were definitely going to lose a substantial quantity of paddy crop. In Kharif, the major crop is paddy. Punjab and Haryana, these two State Governments have taken special precautions. They tried their level best to save the paddy crop. They bought electricity from other States. They have paid more money for that. The Government of Bihar had introduced a scheme to provide subsidized diesel to save paddy crop. All these Governments have taken proactive actions and because of their efforts, they have succeeded in saving the paddy crop. It is because of their effort, as on today, the initial expectation was that there would be a gap of at least 16 million tonnes in case of paddy, but that has been brought down to nine million tonnes. I would like to congratulate the Governments of Bihar, Punjab and Haryana who have taken these initiatives.

अभी डाक्टर साहब ने एक बात कही। मैं पंजाबी कम समझता हूं, लेकिन मैंने समझने की कोशिश की जिसमें शायद आपने यह कहने का प्रयास किया कि हमने ज्यादा पैसे लेकर बिजली खरीदी, अपनी फसल को बचाया, हम प्रधानमंत्री से मिले, मुझसे मिले, फाइंनेंस मिनिस्टर से मगर एक पैसा भी हमें नहीं मिला। शायद यह शिकायत आपने की। आपकी शिकायत सच है। आप जरूर मिले थे प्रधानमंत्री जी से, आप मुझसे भी मिले थे, वित्त मंत्री जी से मिले थे, लेकिन जिस तरीके से बादल साहब के नेतृत्व में वहां की सरकार ने काम किया इस बारे में, उसकी हम सराहना करते हैं और यहां तक सीमित नहीं रहेंगे। प्रधानमंत्री जी ने इस बारे में कुछ सोचा है, उचित समय पर पंजाब और हरियाणा को मदद दी जाएगी। मुझे विश्वास है कि यह बात उचित समय पर सदन के सामने आएगी।

श्री सैयद शाहनवाज हुसैन (भागलपुर): बिहार में डीजल पर सब्सिडी दी गयी।

श्री शरद पवार: बिहार में तो हमने 50 प्रतिशत सब्सिडी, 1000 करोड़ रुपए बिना मांगे ही एनाउंस की थी।

इनके यहां से एक बार आया। हमने बिना मांगे ही दिया था, नीतीश जी ने मांगा नहीं था, लेकिन उन्होंने इनीशिएटिव लिया, उन्होंने रास्ता दिखाया इसलिए भारत सरकार ने यह कदम उठाने का काम किया। मैं बिहार सरकार को भी धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं। ... (व्यवधान)

डॉ शफीकुर्रहमान बर्क (सम्भल): उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में भी बता दें।

श्री शरद पवार: जहां यह कोशिश की गई, वहां यह किया गया।

श्री दारा सिंह चौहान (घोसी): जब मांगने पर आप नहीं दे रहे हैं तो बिना मांगे कहां देंगे
...(व्यवधान)

श्रीमती रमा देवी (शिवहर): बिहार में कुछ दे दें तो स्थिति सुधर जाए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: दारा सिंह जी, रमा देवी जी आप बैठ जाएं।

श्री शरद पवार: बिहार ने मांगा नहीं है, यह मैंने पहले भी कहा है, उन्होंने शुरुआत करने के बाद भारत सरकार ने इनीशिएटिव लेते हुए उसको रिस्पांड किया था। उस समय जो कुछ कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता थी, उस समय प्रयास किए गए। यह समस्या सामने आ रही है कि ये कीमतें इस तरह से ऊपर क्यों जा रही हैं। मैं एक बात सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूं। यूपीए की हुकूमत आने से पहले यूपीए की उस समय की सरकार ने जो अपना कार्यक्रम देश के सामने रखा था, उसमें एक बात साफ थी देशवासियों के सामने कि हमारी सरकार किसानों को उचित कीमत देने के लिए हमेशा कोशिश करेगी। किसानों का नुकसान नहीं होगा, इस बारे में हमारा हमेशा ध्यान रहेगा। Basically, it was the thinking of this Government or the objective of the Government to raise the income level of the farmers and improving terms of trade for the agriculture. यह सोच-समझकर कदम उठाने की तैयारी भारत सरकार ने की थी। इसका रिफलेक्शन महंगाई पर कुछ न कुछ होगा, यही सोचकर हमने यह कदम उठाया था। पहली बात यह है कि इस देश में खेती करने वालों की संख्या आज 12 करोड़ परिवार है। एक परिवार में पांच सदस्य हों तो इस देश की कुल आबादी में से 60 करोड़ लोग खेती के व्यवसाय में हैं। इसमें मैंने लैंडलेस लेबर को काउंट नहीं किया है, जबकि उनका सम्बन्ध भी खेती से होता है। By and large, about 62 per cent of the population of this country depends on agriculture. It was conscious decision that was taken by this Government. Unless and until we improve the overall condition of the sizeable sections of the society, we will not be able to improve the country and country's economy. We may take many decisions to improve the industry. We may encourage trade that is very much required. But unless and until 60 per cent population or 58 per cent population whose purchasing power is going to be weak and if they are going to disassociate from all these developments, I think, this country or this society has no prospect and future. So, it was deliberately decided that we have to improve the purchasing power of this particular section. कई सालों तक उन्हें जो कीमत दे रहे थे, वह कीमत तय करने की जो प्रक्रिया थी, उसमें हमेशा इस पर ज्यादा ध्यान दिया गया था कि इसका असर मार्केट पर होगा। यह भी आवश्यक है, क्योंकि हम मार्केट को भी नजरअंदाज नहीं कर सकते। हम आम जनता के इंटरेस्ट को नजरअंदाज नहीं कर सकते।

मगर यहां तक जाने की आवश्यकता हमें नहीं लगती है कि जिसमें पैदावार करने वाला जो वर्ग है वह खुद संकट में जाए, लेकिन वह संकट में जा रहा था। ... (व्यवधान) तीन महीने पहले मैं पंजाब के एक गांव में गया था। वहां एक बुजुर्ग से जिसकी उम्र लगभग 92 के आस-पास थी, मेरी मुलाकात हुई। उसने मुझसे कहा कि आप हमारी तरफ से माननीय मनमोहन सिंह जी से जाकर कहिये कि पहली बार हमें गेहूं की कीमत इस तरह से मिल रही है। एक किंवटल पर 1100 रुपये आज तक हमें नहीं मिले

हैं, यूपीए सरकार ने हमें यह कीमत दे दी है।...(व्यवधान) उन्होंने मुझे कहा ... (व्यवधान) जिस तरह से मिनिमम स्पोर्ट प्राइस के बारे में कुछ कदम उठाए गये हैं, आपको खुशी हो या न हो लेकिन इस देश के आम किसानों में उससे खुशी है।...(व्यवधान) इस 92 साल के किसान ने मुझे एक बात कही थी कि भाई साहब, मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि मेरी लड़की की शादी जब 62 साल पहले हुई थी तब 10 ग्राम सोना खरीदने के लिए मुझे 5 बोरी गेहूं बेचना पड़ा यानी पांच किंवटल गेहूं बेचने के बाद मुझे 10 ग्राम सोना मिला। आज मुझे 10 ग्राम सोना खरीदने के लिए 15-16 बोरियां गेहूं की बेचनी पड़ती हैं। इससे यह बात साफ होती है कि किसानों को ज्यादा कीमत देने की आवश्यकता थी। बाकी सभी चीजों के दाम ऊपर जा रहे थे और किसानों की पैदावार की कीमत और बाकी चीजों की कीमत में अंतर बहुत था। इस अंतर को दूर करने के प्रयास यूपीए सरकार ने माननीय मनमोहन सिंह जी के नेतृत्व में किया।...(व्यवधान)

श्री अनंत गंगाराम गीते (रायगढ़): पिछले पांच सालों में किसानों ने सबसे ज्यादा आत्महत्याएं की हैं।

श्री शरद पवार: वह भी मैं आपको बताता हूं। To boost production, the minimum support price of wheat has been increased from Rs. 640 per quintal to Rs. 1100. The minimum support price of paddy common variety has been increased from Rs. 560 to Rs. 1000. Despite a huge cost to the Government, the MSP of wheat has been enhanced by 72 per cent and of paddy by 79 per cent. This is not restricted to wheat and rice only. The same approach has been taken on pulses, on oilseeds, on cotton. An hon. Member asked as to what happened in Vidarbha.

For the first time, Vidarbha farmers have got between Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 3,000 per quintal for their cotton, which they never got for a number of years. I have seen on many occasions there was agitation from the Vidarbha farmers कि हमें 700 रुपए कीमत मिलनी चाहिए, 1200 रुपए कीमत मिलनी चाहिए, 1500 रुपए कीमत मिलनी चाहिए या 2000 रुपए कीमत मिलनी चाहिए। सरकार ने बिना मांगे 2500 से 3000 रुपए तक कीमत देने का काम किया है। इतनी खरीद विदर्भ में आज तक नहीं हुई है। मैं आपको इस बात की एक ही मिसाल देना चाहता हूं कि ग्रामीण बैंक की डिपोजिट्स के आंकड़े विदर्भ के यवतमाल जिले, जहां सबसे ज्यादा आत्महत्याएं हुई थीं, वहां से कलेक्ट कीजिए, तो यह बात साफ हो जाएगी कि इस साल किसानों ने बैंकों में जितनी रकम-जमा कराई है, उतनी पहले कभी जमा नहीं कराई गई है। इससे बात साफ होती है कि उन्हें सही कीमत मिली है।...(व्यवधान)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...(Not recorded)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The real problem is, unfortunately some of the State Governments are not taking initiatives to execute these schemes. Ultimately, these schemes have to be implemented by the State Governments. The Government of India, Cotton Corporation of India is ready to provide whatever money is required, even advance money was also provided, but those State governments have not taken any initiatives. Unfortunately, the farming community and cotton growers from that area has been affected.....*(Interruptions)* सरकार ने व्हीट, पैडी, ज्वार, बाजरा,

मक्का, आयल सीट्स और सभी प्रकार की दालें तथा कॉटन, सभी की कीमत इस प्रकार से बढ़ाई कि इसका परिणाम देश में उत्पादन में वृद्धि के रूप में दिखाई देने वाला है। कई जगह प्रक्रिया शुरू हुई हैं। जैसा मैंने शुरू में कहा कि समाज के गरीब वर्ग के हितों की रक्षा करना भी सरकार की जिम्मेदारी होती है। इसी जिम्मेदारी को सामने रख पर पीडीएस द्वारा, जैसा मैंने कहा एवाई, बीपीएल और एपीएल तीनों केटेगिरी में कई बदलाव नहीं किया, इश्यु प्राइस वही रखा है। इसका असर टोटल सब्सिडी में, when I took over this responsibility about six years ago, the total burden of the subsidy was Rs. 19,000 crore but this year, I think, we would cross Rs. 72,00 crore. That type of burden has been consciously taken by the Government just protect the interests of these weaker sections.

सरकार की नीति साफ है उत्पादन करने वाले लोगों को एक तरह से जस्टिस देना, उन्हें ठीक कीमत देना, किसानों की स्थिति में बदलाव लाना, गांव में रहने वाले लोगों की प्रचेजिंग पावर बढ़ाना और इसके साथ-साथ उपभोक्ता तथा उपभोक्ता में भी जो गरीब वर्ग है, इन लोगों के लिए फाइनेंशियल बर्डन भारत सरकार ने अपने ऊपर ले कर सब्सिडी दे कर उचित कीमत पर चीजें देने का प्रयास किया है। इस बारे में हम पिछले कई महीनों से अमल कर रहे हैं।

यहां सवाल उठाया गया कि एलोकेशन में फर्क किया गया है। मैं एक बात सदन के सामने साफ रखना चाहता हूँ कि whatever allocation has been given to the AAY, BPL and APL it has not been reduced at all. It is true that the APL variety category, certain quantity was reduced in the last two years and there was a reason because most of the States have not lifted. The Government of India has allotted foodgrains to all the States, but in the APL category, the lifting was less than 30 per cent.

In some States it was less than 20 per cent.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): At that time the market rate was less.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Anyway, but that was not lifted. It was not lifted for two to three years. तीन साल तक लगातार उठाने के बाद जब देखा कि लोगों का सपोर्ट नहीं है, सरकार का सपोर्ट नहीं है तब हमने कोटा कम किया और कुछ नहीं किया लेकिन हमने बाकी कहीं भी एलोकेशन में कमी नहीं की। इस साल एक स्थिति में बदलाव आ गया, कीमतें ऊपर जाने लगीं, हमारे पास स्टॉक की पोजीशन अच्छी थी और आज भी अच्छी है। ऐसे स्टॉक में मार्किट में अवेलेबिलिटी बनाने की आवश्यकता है। अवेलेबिलिटी बनाने के लिए एवाई कैटेगिरी और बीपीएल को 35 किलो गेहूँ और चावल देते हैं हमने उसे कट्टीन्यू किया। इसके साथ एपीएल कैटेगिरी को दस किलो तक अनाज देते थे, हमने इसमें कुछ बदलाव किया। बदलाव ऐसे किया कि एन्टायर नार्थ-ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स, हिली स्टेट्स अंडमान-निकोबार और लक्ष्मीप में एपीएल कैटेगिरी को 35 किलो देने का काम किया। हमने इस पर अमल किया।.....(व्यवधान)

श्री विष्णु पद राय (अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीपसमूह): ऐसा नहीं हुआ।(व्यवधान)

श्री शरद पवार: आपको कुछ नहीं मिलता है। आप बैठ जाइए। कल जब रेलवे मिनिस्टर बोल रही थी तब आप चैनरी से अंडमान ट्रेन की डिमांड कर रहे थे। मैं देख रहा था। अब इसमें कहां तक ध्यान देंगे यह आपका मन है।(व्यवधान)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.....(Interruptions)

श्री विष्णु पद राय (अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीपसमूह): आप गलत कह रहे हैं। अंडमान में आपकी ही सरकार थी(व्यवधान) सर्वे हुआ था।(व्यवधान)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please address the Chair.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am not yielding(Interruptions) इन सभी राज्यों को 35 किलो अनाज देने का काम किया गया। इसके साथ सभी राज्यों को 20 लाख टन ज्यादा गेहूं और चावल अलॉट किया। हमने इसकी कीमत सिर्फ एमएसपी रखी। एमएसपी की कीमत का मतलब क्या है? आज हम किसानों से जो माल खरीदते हैं। किसानों को जो पैसे देते हैं वही पैसे चार्ज किए जबकि वहां तक हमारी कीमत सीमित नहीं रहती है। इसकी डिटेल फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब ने अपनी स्पीच में दे दी है। जब हम एक किंवंटल पैडी खरीदते हैं तो धान किसानों को 1000 रुपए कीमत देते हैं। जैसे पंजाब ने खरीदी तो हमें पंजाब सरकार को 12 परसेंट टैक्स, 120 रुपए ज्यादा देने पड़ते हैं। 50 रुपए गनी बैग के देने पड़ते हैं, लोडिंग और अनलोडिंग के पैसे देने पड़ते हैं और बाद में ट्रांसपोर्ट के पैसे देने पड़ते हैं। इस तरह इसकी कीमत मिलाकर 1600 रुपए के आसपास पड़ती है। हम 1600 रुपए में एक किंवंटल धान खरीदतें हैं तो इससे हमें 62 किलो चावल मिलता है। इस चावल की कीमत 20 से 21 रुपए आगे होती है। इतनी ज्यादा कीमत होने के बाद, हम आम जनता को आज भी, जैसा कि मैंने शुरू में कहा कि 2002 के रेट से ही देते हैं। भारत सरकार इतनी बड़ी जिम्मेदारी अपने सिर पर ले रही है। हमने ज्यादा माल ले लिया, हम सिर्फ किसानों को 1100 रुपए किंवंटल गेहूं और 1000 रुपए पैडी के देते हैं। हम जब किसानों को 1100 रुपए देते हैं, हम जो एडीशनल कोटा स्टेट गवर्नर्मेंट को दे देते हैं वह 1100 रुपए में ही देते हैं यानी हमने इसमें गनी चार्जिस चार्ज नहीं किए। पंजाब और हरियाणा सरकार से जो टैक्स दिए हैं, वे चार्ज नहीं किए। लोडिंग-अनलोडिंग चार्जिस नहीं लिए और इसके अलावा वहां का जो लोकल कमीशन होता है, वह भी इस पर चार्ज नहीं किया। आज प्रतिपक्ष के नेता ने भी कहा कि आपने किसानों को एक कीमत दी जबकि बाजार की कीमत दूसरी है।

इसके बारे में भी मुझे उनके पास से अधिक इंफॉर्मेशन लेनी पड़ेगी, क्योंकि मेरे पास अन्य राज्य सरकारों की तरफ से अलग लिखा गया है।(व्यवधान) मैं एक बात बताना चाहता हूं कि यह ज्यादा एलोकेशन किसलिए है, ज्यादा एलोकेशन महंगाई की समस्या से आम जनता को छुटकारा दिलाने के लिए है और जब हमने ज्यादा एलोकेशन एम.एस.पी. प्राइस पर दे दिया।

Day before yesterday, the 22nd February, 2010, I have received a letter from the Chief Minister of Bihar. He has written:

"Although we have been allocated some quantity of wheat and rice for lifting under the OMSS, the prospect for their lifting under this Scheme do not seem very bright when an ineffective price gap between the market price and price under this Scheme is there."

यानी हमने मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस की कीमत चार्ज करके जो माल राज्य सरकार को दिया, नीतीश जी का यह कहना है कि यह माल हमारे लोग उठायेंगे, इस पर मुझे विश्वास नहीं है, क्योंकि हमारे मार्केट के दाम इससे नीचे हैं, इससे भी कम हैं। यानी मार्केट प्राइसेस एमएसपी प्राइसेज से कम हैं। यहां जो लीडर ऑफ द अपोजीशन ने कहा था कि आप किसानों को एक कीमत देते हैं और बाकी कीमत आज जनता को क्या है, इसका फर्क मैं बताने के लिए(व्यवधान) मैं दूसरा एक फर्क बताता हूं।

श्री हरिन पाठक (अहमदाबाद पूर्व): कंज्यूमर प्राइस के बारे में क्या है?(व्यवधान)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This letter I got yesterday from Shri Ram Prasad Chaudhary, मंत्री, खाद्य एवं रसद, उत्तर प्रदेश। भारत सरकार द्वारा गेहूं का मूल्य 1140 रुपये एवं चावल का मूल्य 1507 निर्धारित किया गया है। उक्त निर्धारित मूल्य में हैंडलिंग एवं वेज सम्मिलित करने के पश्चात् गेहूं या चावल की बिक्री बाजार में होना संभव नहीं है, क्योंकि उत्तर प्रदेश में इससे कम मूल्य पर बाजार में चावल और गेहूं उपलब्ध हैं।(व्यवधान) What these State Governments are communicating to me.(व्यवधान) यस सपोर्ट प्राइस, राज्य सरकार को अलॉट करने के पश्चात् राज्य सरकार उठाने के लिए तैयार नहीं है और राज्य सरकार मुझे लिख रही है कि मार्केट में इससे कम दाम पर माल उपलब्ध है और इसलिए एम.एस.पी. की कीमत पर हम माल नहीं उठा सकते। यहां जो बतलाया गया कि किसानों को एक कीमत देते हैं और बाजार में इससे दोगुनी, तिगुनी कीमत है, इसमें कहां तक सच्चाई है, यह हमें देखना होगा, क्योंकि यह राज्य सरकार इसे एक तरह से अलग करना चाहती है।(व्यवधान) एक बात बताई गई है(व्यवधान)

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (विदिशा): आपने यह कहा कि समर्थन मूल्य और रिटेल में बहुत ज्यादा अंतर है और वे आंकड़े मैंने दिये। आप बता रहे हैं कि इस बार आपने गेहूं का समर्थन मूल्य 10.80 दिया। यही है न समर्थन मूल्य?

श्री शरद पवार: 11 रुपये।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (विदिशा): मैंने आपसे कहा कि बाजार में आठ 20 रुपये मिल रहा है। आप गैप देख लीजिए। चावल आपने 11 रुपये दिया और 25 रुपये किलो मिल रहा है। आपने स्वयं कहा कि 23 रुपये, आपने स्वयं बताया कि यह 23 रुपये है, मैंने 32 नहीं बोला, मैंने 25 बोला था। जिस दुकान से मैं अपना राशन मंगाती हूं, वहां का अपना राशन का बिल मैं टाइप करके लाइ हूं। जो मैं हर महीने खर्च कर रही हूं। आम गृहिणी को(व्यवधान)

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री और जल संसाधन मंत्री (श्री पवन कुमार बंसल): मैडम, आप कहना चाह रही हैं कि आम आदमी पर असर क्या हो रहा है। आप कह रही हैं(व्यवधान)

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (विदिशा): वह मेरे आंकड़ों को कंफ्रंट कर रहे हैं।(व्यवधान)

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: उनकी बात का आप खंडन कीजिये।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (विदिशा): वह मेरे आंकड़ों को कंसैट दे रहे हैं।

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल: आप उन जगहों पर जाते हैं जहां बड़ी मार्किट हैं।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (विदिशा): मैं केन्द्रीय भंडार जाती हूं।(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: आप लोग बैठ जाइये। लीडर ऑफ दी अपोज़ीशन बोल रही हैं ..(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: जगदम्बिका पाल जी, आप बैठ जायें।

...(व्यवधान)

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (विदिशा): कृषि मंत्री जी ने मेरे आंकड़ों को कंसैट किया है। दो आंकड़े समर्थन मूल्य और रिटेल मूल्य ... (व्यवधान) उन्होंने मेरा नाम लेकर कहा है कि नेता विपक्ष कह रही थी कि यह अंतर है। तो मैं सच कह रही थी कि यह अंतर है। आप समर्थन मूल्य किसान को 11 रुपये प्रति किलो दे रहे हैं जबकि बाजार में यह 25 रुपये किलो मिल रहा है। आप इस बात को स्वीकार कर लीजिये। मैं खुद लेकर आयी हूं। आप मेरे साथ चलिये, मैं आपको दिखा देती हूं। इसलिये कि आपने किसानों को 11 रुपये किलो का भाव दिया है जबकि बाजार में 25 रुपये प्रति किलो भाव है। ये दोनों आंकड़े सच हैं।... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर कुछ कह रहे हैं। आप लोग बैठिये।

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: हरिन पाठक जी, आप बैठिये।

श्री शरद पवार: आपके आंकड़े सच हो सकते हैं। मुझे मालूम है कि आपका दुकान कौन-सा है?... (व्यवधान) मुझे यह भी नहीं मालूम कि... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: गीते जी, आप क्यों खड़े हो गये हैं? आप बैठ जाइये।

...(व्यवधान)

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (विदिशा): मैं खान मार्किट से नहीं लेती हूं, मैं केन्द्रीय भंडार से लाती हूं।

श्री शरद पवार: मुझे मालूम नहीं। जैसा मैंने कहा कि हमारे चावल का रेट पर्टिकुलर वैरायटी का है। गेहूं का रेट कॉमन वैरायटी का है। लगता है कि आप अलग किस्म का चावल लाई होंगी?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (विदिशा): मैं परमल लायी हूं।

श्री शरद पवार: मुझे मालूम नहीं कि ऐसा है।

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री कपिल सिंहल): सुषमा जी, लगता है कि आप आम आदमी का चावल नहीं खाती हैं। आप उत्तम किस्म का बासमती चावल खाती हैं। हम तो ब्राउन राइस खाते हैं।... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: मुंडे जी, आप बैठ जायें। रमा देवी जी, यह क्या हो रहा है? आप लोग क्या कर रहे हैं? आप बैठिये।

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: शाहनवाज़ जी, यह आप क्या कर रहे हैं, आप बैठिये।

(Interruptions) ... (Not recorded)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record like this.

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: गीते जी, आप हर समय क्यों खड़े हो जाते हैं? आप बैठ जाइये। मत खड़े होइये।

श्री शरद पवार: नेता, प्रतिपक्ष ने सदन के सामने एक ईश्यू और रखा कि सरकार ने ... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: गीते जी, आप अपना स्थान ग्रहण कीजिये।

श्री शरद पवार: सरकार ने आम आदमी के हितों की रक्षा करने के लिये बफर स्टॉक रखने की आवश्यकता समझी... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: आप सब क्यों खड़े हैं? आप सब क्या बोल रहे हैं, आप सब बैठिये।

श्री शरद पवार: उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार ने बफर स्टॉक मेनेटन नहीं किया, बफर स्टॉक मेनेटन करने की आवश्यकता थी, मैं उस से सहमत हूं।

आज तक चाहे एनडीए की हुकूमत हो या यूपीए की हुकूमत हो, बफर स्टॉक हमेशा दो ही आइटम के लिये जाते हैं, एक गेहूं और दूसरा चावल। जहां तक गेहूं की बफर स्टॉक की स्थिति है, मैं इतना कहना चाहता हूं कि बफर स्टॉक के नॉर्म्स होते हैं, जिन्हें बफर नॉर्म्स कहते हैं। इस सरकार ने हुकूमत में आने के बाद इनमें और सुधार किया है। इसमें एक सुधार ऐसे किया कि बफर नॉर्म्स प्लस स्ट्रैटिजिक रिजर्व।

स्ट्रैटिजिक रिजर्व से और धान, अनाज रखकर पोजीशन कम्फरेटेल करने के लिए इस सरकार ने कोशिश की। मैं जो आंकड़े दे रहा हूं, वे बफर स्टॉक के नॉर्म्स और स्ट्रैटिजिक, ये दोनों मिलकर आज हमारे पास स्टॉक की पोजीशन है। मैं यह आंकड़े की बात नहीं, मैं स्टॉक की बात बता रहा हूं। 1 जनवरी 2010 को स्ट्रैटिजिक नॉर्म्स और बफर नॉर्म्स मिलाकर सरकार को 82 लाख टन गेहूं की आवश्यकता थी। हमारे पास 230 लाख टन बफर स्टॉक है।... (व्यवधान) 1 जनवरी 2010 को बफर नॉर्म्स के मुताबिक 118 लाख टन राइस रखने की आवश्यकता थी, हमारे पास 242 लाख टन है।... (व्यवधान) इन दोनों से यह बात साबित होती है... (व्यवधान)

इसमें कई समस्याएं भी पैदा हुई हैं... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: मंत्री जी बता रहे हैं, आप सुनिए।

... (व्यवधान)

श्री शरद पवार: जो बफर स्टॉक रखने की आवश्यकता है, वह बफर स्टॉक भारत सरकार ने रखा है। खाली रखा है, ऐसी नहीं है। भारत सरकार ने पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन की जो कैटेगरीज़ हैं, इन कैटेगरीज़ की जो डिमांड है, वह पूरी की। इसके साथ-साथ टू मिलियन टन ज्यादा ओपन मार्केट में बेचकर कीमत कम करने के लिए कोशिश की, वह माल बेचा। आया तैयार करने वाले जितने फ्लोर मिल्स हैं, उन्हें 20 लाख टन एडिशनल एलॉट किया, बेच दिया। इसके साथ-साथ राज्य सरकार को एडिशनल कोटा 20 लाख टन का दिया, इससे मार्केट में एवलेबिलिटी बढ़ाने के लिए कोशिश की गयी है। मुझे इसकी शिकायत करनी पड़ती है कि कुछ ... (व्यवधान)

श्री गणेश सिंह (सतना): दाम क्यों नहीं घटे, यह तो बता दीजिए?... (व्यवधान)

श्री शरद पवार: दाम घटे हैं। कुछ राज्य सरकारों ने यह एलोकेशन करने के बाद भी माल नहीं उठाया है। हम उन्हें एलर्ट कर सकते हैं... (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (विदिशा) : महोदया, हमने यही बोला है कि दाम घटे हैं मगर कृषि मंत्री जी यह मानने को तैयार ही नहीं हैं कि महंगाई...(व्यवधान)

1903 बजे

(तत्पश्चात् श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज और कुछ अन्य माननीय सदस्य सभा से बाहर चले गए।)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: बैठिए, आप लोग तो बैठ जाइए। आप क्यों खड़े हो गये हैं?

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: जगदम्बिका पाल जी, आप क्यों खड़े हो गये हैं?

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: आप लोग यह क्या कर रहे हैं? आप ऐसा कैसे कर रहे हैं?

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: इस तरह नारेबाजी मत कीजिए।

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR "One more allegation has been made by the Leader of the Opposition.

उन्होंने कहा कि इस देश में राइस की पोज़ीशन खराब होने के बावजूद नॉन-बासमती राइस भारत सरकार ने एक्सपोर्ट किया — यह बात सच नहीं है। भारत सरकार ने 2008-09 और 2009-10 के दोनों सालों में राइस एक्सपोर्ट नहीं किया। राइस एक्सपोर्ट बैन किया है। सिर्फ 9 लाख 50 हजार टन पड़ोसी देशों को डिप्लोमैटिक ग्राउंड पर दिया है। It was done on the request of the Ministry of External Affairs. These countries are Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. They are our neighbouring countries. There was a request at the Government level. It was done on a Government to Government level. It was not trade or any export. Except that not a single grain was exported. So, the allegation that has been made is not correct.

One more allegation was made here that this Government has exported wheat also. That information is also not correct. We have not exported wheat. We are not encouraging export of wheat. For the time being we have practically stopped export of wheat, rice, pulses, all types of edible oils and sugar.

One more allegation has been made that we are exporting sugar. That is not correct in that particular year, we have not exported sugar. केवल 1 लाख 30 हजार टन शुगर एक्सपोर्ट हुई थी पिछले साल, वह पुराना कॉन्ट्रैक्ट था। इससे ज्यादा कोई दूसरा कॉन्ट्रैक्ट नहीं था। एक बात बार-बार कही गई कि 10 हजार टन चीनी भारत ने यूरोपियन कंट्रीज को देने के लिए कदम उठाए। यह बात मैं सदन को साफ करना चाहता हूं। यूरोपियन कंट्रीज का अपने देश के लिए कुछ कोटा होता है। वह कोटा हमने जब पूरा नहीं किया तो जब सरप्लस होता है उस समय भी हमारा वहां भेजने का हक नहीं रहता है। इसलिए 10 हजार टन देने की ज़िम्मेदारी भारत के ऊपर थी। वह ज़िम्मेदारी पूरी करने के लिए कॉर्मर्स मिनिस्ट्री के माध्यम से इजाजत दी गई। It was done on the condition that

equivalent sugar has to be imported. So, equivalent sugar will be imported and then only equivalent sugar from India will be exported to European countries. So, there is no question of any effect or impact on our own stock position. That is the position. यहां एक मसला आया कि आपने चीनी का बफर स्टॉक क्यों नहीं किया। मुझे लगता है कि शायद उनको ज्यादा मालूम नहीं होगा। चीनी एक ऐसी आइटम है कि वह साल डेढ़ साल से ज्यादा स्टोर नहीं कर सकते। इसको आग लग सकती है, खराब हो जाती है। कभी किसी सरकार ने चीनी का बफर स्टॉक नहीं रखा, एनडीए के ज़माने में भी रखा और आज भी नहीं रखा। यह बात सच है कि तीन-चार साल पहले देश में चीनी का उत्पादन बहुत बढ़ गया था। देश की ज़रूरत से दुगुनी चीनी देश में थी। चीनी का देश का मार्केट, दुनिया का मार्केट नीचे आया था। यहां चीनी मिलें किसानों की कीमतें देने की परिस्थिति में नहीं थीं। केन ड्यूज़ 4000 करोड़ रुपये से ऊपर गया था। ऐसी स्थिति में मदद करने की आवश्यकता थी। ऐसी स्थिति में जब तक हम स्टॉक डिसमेंट नहीं करते, एक्सपोर्ट को एनकरेज नहीं करते, तब तक हमारे सामने दूसरा कोई चारा नहीं था। इसलिए शुगर डेवलपमेंट फंड से फाइनैशियल सपोर्ट करके एक्सपोर्ट इंसैन्टिव देकर चीनी यहां से बाहर एक्सपोर्ट की गई। जब दो साल के बाद हमें यह पता लगा कि ओवरऑल शुगरकेन का प्रोडक्शन कम हो रहा है, हर राज्य सरकार की तरफ से हमारे पास जब फिगर्स आ गई तो शुरू में उन्होंने कहा कि इस देश में हमारे राज्य में शुगरकेन के प्रोडक्शन पर कोई बुरा असर नहीं है, अच्छी तरह से पिराई हो जाएगी। मगर छः महीने के बाद उन्हीं राज्य सरकारों ने कहा कि हमारी जानकारी और आज की स्थिति में फर्क है। हमारे यहां शुगरकेन प्लॉटेशन कम हुआ है। जब यह इनफॉर्मेशन हमारे सामने आ गई तो हमने एक्सपोर्ट बंद किया। बाहर भेजना बंद किया और सौ लाख टन का स्टॉक रखकर इस देश के लोगों की आवश्यकता पूरी करने की कोशिश की गई। इसी साल हमारा उत्पादन और कम हुआ था। मुझे लगता है कि इस साल 160 लाख टन के आसपास उत्पादन हो जाएगा। कैरीओवर हमारे पास 24 लाख टन है। 184 लाख टन की हमारी अवेलेबिलिटी होगी। हमारी ज़रूरत 230 लाख टन की है। बीच में जो गैप है, उसे भरने के लिए हमने इनसैन्टिव देकर we have not put any taxes and we have allowed anybody to import. They can import raw sugar and they can import fine sugar. Fortunately, the industry has already contracted substantial quantity. Some quantity has been reached to country and some quantity is on the way. I am confident that whatever the requirement of the country is, that gap will be fulfilled because of this import. But the prices at which the farmers were getting today, my observation is that the farming community are quite happy about it. I recollect and the hon. Members will also recollect last year immediately after the elections when we met here, for the first two days, the House could not function because of the agitation from the sugarcane farmers. I think the hon. Members will recollect it. There was a demand that we should provide such and such price to the farmers. The Government conceded their demand. A new formula has been adopted and a new price has been announced. Fortunately, in most of the places, the industry is also paying the same price. As on today, the farmer in Uttar Pradesh is getting somewhat near to Rs. 250/- to Rs. 260/ per quintal price for sugarcane which he never got in the last 50 years.

Madam, I do not want to give more information. I do not want to give the name of one district. In my home State in one of the districts, which produces sugarcane and I had been there for some reason, I visited three Assembly segments. The Collector gave me the report in the three Assembly segments. It is essentially

sugarcane producing districts. In the three Assembly segments in the last four months, 55,000 motor bikes have been purchased by the farmers. I have also seen that the work of digging well was going on. They are buying new equipment. A lot of them are constructing their houses. So, the rural India is really changing, particularly the sugarcane area is changing. ...(*Interruptions*) I was saying that the cotton farmer has never seen Rs. 3,000/- in the last 40 or 50 years. So, it is a conscious decision of the Government of India to provide better prices.

श्री जगदम्बिका पाल (डुमरियागंज): माननीय मंत्री जी उत्तर प्रदेश के किसानों को 250, 260, 280 मिल रहा है। ...(*व्यवधान*)

अध्यक्ष महोदया: जगदम्बिका पाल जी, आप उनको सुन लीजिए। ...(*व्यवधान*)

श्री जगदम्बिका पाल (डुमरियागंज): यिल्ड कर दिया है तो हम एक मिनट कह लें। जिन किसानों को यह पैसा मिल रहा है और मिल मालिकों को आप दे रहे हैं, उन मिल मालिकों के खिलाफ उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने मुकदमा कर दिया है। जिससे की कठिनाई है मिल मालिक वहां से फरार हैं कि कहीं उनको जेल न भेज दिया जाए क्योंकि उन्होंने गन्ने के रिजर्वेशन के आधार पर नहीं बल्कि उन्होंने ओपन किसानों से खरीदा है। यह बात मैं आपके संज्ञान में लाना चाहता हूं।

श्री शरद पवार: आपकी बात सही है। उनका डेलीगेशन हम लोगों से भी मिला था। मैंने उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को इस बारे में लिखा है और मुझे विश्वास है कि इस पर कोई न कोई कदम उठाए गए हैं। लेकिन इसमें एक बात अच्छी है, मैंने आपके मुंह से इस बात को सुना कि 250 से ज्यादा कीमत आपके यहां भी मिल रही है। उत्तर प्रदेश के किसानों को यह कीमत आज तक कभी नहीं मिली थी, इस सरकार ने देने की कोशिश की है। इस सबका असर कीमतों पर कुछ न कुछ तो होगा। जब 250 रुपये प्रति किंवद्दन यानी 2500 रुपये टन कैन की कीमत होती है तो चीनी की कीमत भी ऊपर जाएगी। लेकिन जो बहुत ऊपर चीनी की कीमत जा रही थी, इसमें कुछ न कुछ परिवर्तन हुआ है। मुझे विश्वास है कि चीनी की कीमत 835-36 के आसपास स्टेबल हो सकती है।

अध्यक्ष महोदया: आज यह ट्रेंड यहां दिख रहा है और चीनी 50 रुपए किलो तक जाएगी, ऐसी स्थिति आज की नहीं है। इसलिए मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं, जैसा मैंने शुरू में कहा कि सरकार की नीति है कि किसान को ठीक तरह से कीमत मिले, इस पर अमल करने का प्रयास किया गया है। सरकार की नीति है कि जो वलनरेबल सैक्षण है, उसे ठीक कीमत पर अनाज मिलना चाहिए। हमने आज तक अनाज की इश्यू प्राइस में बदलाव नहीं किया और पूरी जिम्मेदारी सरकार ने अपने ऊपर लेकर, राज्यों को जो अनाज दिया जा रहा है, वह वर्ष 2002 की कीमत पर आज भी दिया जा रहा है। इसलिए इन वर्गों की रक्षा करने के प्रयास भारत सरकार कर रही है। समाज के जो बाकी वर्ग हैं, जो एपीएल कैटेगरी हैं, उसे भी हम उत्पादन बढ़ाकर और अवेलेबिलिटी बढ़ाकर, जो महंगाई की समस्या उनके सामने आ रही है, उसे कम करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। मुझे विश्वास है कि इस देश का जो किसान है, उसे उचित कीमत मिलने के बाद, वह और ज्यादा उत्पादन बढ़ाएगा और देश में जो कुछ कमियां हैं, डिमांड और सप्लाई में जो गैप है, उसे पूरी करने के लिए वह और मेहनत करेगा, क्योंकि सरकार की नीति किसान के पक्ष में है। इसलिए इस पूरी स्थिति में बदलाव आएगा। जैसा प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा कि: "The worst time is over". I am absolutely confident about that. The worst time is over. We are on the line of better days. I am sure, the situation will

change. आम जनता, जो कुछ सहन कर रही है, उसमें बदलाव आएगा। इससे ज्यादा कहने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। इसलिए मैं इतना ही कहकर अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister thank you.

DR. K.S. RAO (ELURU): Madam, I have a very important point to make.

MADAM SPEAKER: No.

DR. K.S. RAO (ELURU): Please allow me to put one question.

Mr. Minister, with the support of the Government of India and with the encouragement from the Government of India, in Andhra Pradesh, the coastal districts are suitable in climate for raising the palm tree gardens. The farmers have raised palm tree gardens in one lakh hectares but the rate of palm oil has suddenly fallen from Rs. 6300 per tonne to Rs. 3400 per tonne thereby the entire farming community, who have raised the plant for four years now-only after four years, it will come to the crop-bearing stage-is in difficulty. The farmers are in the condition of cutting all the palm trees. If the hon. Minister were to pass on the same subsidy which is given to importers of palm oil from Malaysia and other countries to these farmers, there will not be any need for import of edible oil from other countries, particularly palm oil, which is now running to the tune of 60 lakh tonnes. Will the hon. Minister promise in this House that he will pass on that subsidy which is being given to the traders to the farmers so that permanently this problem is solved?(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Not so many questions are allowed. This is not a Question-Answer Session. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (IDUKKI): The Government is trying to import palm oil. It will badly affect the coconut oil farmers in Kerala. So, I demand that it should not import palm oil to Kerala..... (Interruption)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The solution for this is there. In the Agriculture Ministry, there is a Scheme called the Market Intervention Scheme where 50 percent losses will be borne by the Government of India and 50 per cent losses will be borne by the respective State Governments. I am ready to take up this issue of coconut oil with the Kerala Government and of palm oil with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. If both the Government are ready to accept the Scheme, the Government of India will enter and purchase at MSP that material and save the farmers. Thank you.

DR. K.S. RAO (ELURU): Hon. Minister, I thank you for this.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister thank you.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 26th February, 2010 at 11. a.m.

1919 hours.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Friday, February 26, 2010/Phalguna 7, 1931 (Saka)*

APPENDIX III

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 20 ANSWERED ON 13.03.2012

Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies

***20. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:
SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:**

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

- (a) whether Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies including District Fora have been set up in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note a large number of posts lying vacant in the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission/Forum and taken appropriate follow-up action;
- (d) if so, the details alongwith the present status thereof;
- (e) the details of circuit benches functioning in the country alongwith their functions; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for strengthening of Consumer Fora in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House
- (c) & (d) Yes, Madam. While the State Governments are responsible for filling up of vacant posts in the State Commission and District Fora, the Central Government have been taking the following steps in this regard:
 - (i) The Central Government has been requesting State Governments to take advance action for filling up expected vacancies of president and Members and maintain a panel of candidates for filling up of vacant posts to avoid delays in appointments. The Central Government has been requesting State Governments that wherever required, adjacent Fora may be clubbed together so that functioning of consumer Fora is not affected due to any vacancies.

- (ii) In the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2011 which has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16.12.2011, provision is being made to reduce delays in the appointment of President/Members in the District forum and Members in the State/National commission, wherein the State or Central Government, as the case may be, if it is not in agreement with the recommendations of the Selection committee, shall convey their decision within two months of receipt of the panel so that the Selection committee can reconsider their recommendations.

As per the information received from National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), the present State-wise status of vacancies of President and Members in the State Commission and District Fora as on 29.02.2012 is given at **Annexure-II**.

(e) As regards the National Commission, the Commission has identified 13 places for holding Circuit Benches. It held its first Circuit bench sitting at Hyderabad in the month of January 2005. The second one at Bangalore in the month of January 2006, at Chennai in January 2007, at Pune in January-February 2008, at Cochin in March-April, 2009, at Kolkata in January-February, 2010, at Ahmedabad in February-March, 2011 and lastly at Bhopal in January-February, 2012.

As regards State Commission, Circuit Benches/Additional Benches are functioning in the following States :—

(i) Gujarat	03 Additional Benches
(ii) Haryana	01 Additional Bench
(iii) Maharashtra	Circuit bench at Nagpur & Aurangabad
(iv) Uttar Pradesh	01 Additional Bench
(v) West Bengal	01 Additional Bench
(vi) Madhya Pradesh	01 Additional Bench
(vii) Punjab	01 Additional Bench

(f) Although it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government to set up the State Commission and District Fora and provide it with adequate infrastructure manpower and funds, the Central Government has been supplementing their efforts with the following schemes for Strengthening Consumer Fora in the country.

(I) For strengthening infrastructure of Consumer Fora the following schemes have been implemented over the year

(i) One Time Grant (OTG)

- (a) **One Time Grant of 1995:** The establishment of State Commission and the District Fora and providing infrastructural facilities, manpower, etc. for their effective functioning is the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, the Central Government had extended a one time

financial assistance for strengthening the infrastructure facility of the Consumer Fora to the extent of Rs. 61.80 crore to the States/UTs at the rate of Rs. 50.00 lakhs each for 32 State Commissions and Rs. 10.00 lakhs each for 458 District Fora that had been established by 1995.

(b) **One Time Grant of 2004-2005:** The Central Government further extended a one time financial assistance for strengthening the infrastructure of the Consumer Fora to the extent of Rs. 10.20 crore to 3 newly created State Commissions and 53 District Fora, which had been established after 1995, @ Rs. 75 lakhs and Rs. 15 lakhs respectively to 13 States during the financial year 2004-05.

(ii) Scheme of 'Integrated Project on Consumer Protection (IPCP)'

To supplement the efforts of the State Government/UT Administrations for strengthening the infrastructure of the Consumer Fora, the scheme of "Integrated Project on consumer Protection (IPCP)" was implemented during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 wherein financial assistance was extended to States so that minimum level of facilities (infrastructure) were provided to each Consumer Forum in the country required for their effective functioning. An amount of Rs. 73.82 crore was released to 21 States upto 31.03.2008 *viz.* at the time of closure of the scheme, to strengthen the infrastructure of 506 Consumer Fora. At the closure, the second instalment remained due in respect of 181 Consumer Fora buildings in 12 States as the 12 States could not complete utilization of the first instalment in time to seek the second instalment from the Central Government. An amount of Rs. 13.20 crore was released during 2008-09 to 6 of these States as second instalment for 131 Consumer Fora buildings, after they furnished utilization reports.

(iii) Scheme of 'Strengthening Consumer Fora (SCF)'

The Central Government has been extending financial assistance to States/UTs for strengthening the infrastructure of Consumer Fora so that minimum level of facilities are made available at each Consumer Forum, which are required for their effective functioning. The scheme 'Strengthening Consumer Fora (SCF)' has been formulated for implementation with an overall outlay of Rs. 54.50 crore during the last 4 years of the XI Plan *viz.* 2008-09 to 2011-12. Infrastructural Facilities being provided under the scheme include construction of new building of the Consumer Fora, carrying out addition/alteration/renovation of existing building and grant for acquiring non-building assets such as furniture, office equipment etc. Under the scheme of 'Strengthening Consumer Fora', an amount of Rs. 6.52 crore has been released to 6 eligible States upto 29.02.2012 during 2011-12. The State-wise details of assistance released during the last 4 years under the scheme of Strengthening of Consumer Fora (SCF) as on 29.02.2012 is given at **Annexure-III**.

(II) Confonet

The scheme of 'Computerization and Computer Networking of Consumer Fora in the Country (CONFONET)' was launched during the 10th Plan period in

March 2005 at a cost of Rs. 48.64 crore. Under the Scheme, the Consumer Fora at all the three tiers throughout the country were to be fully computerized to enable access of information and quicker disposal of cases. The project is being implemented by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) on a turnkey basis.

The scheme has been extended during 11th Plan with a total outlay of Rs. 25.60 crore. In the extended period of project, stress is being laid upon continued HR support by means of Technical Support Personnels (TSPs) and training for eventual adoption of the system by the Consumer Fora themselves. During the year 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 0.75 crore has been released to NIC for the activities to be undertaken under "CONFONET" Project in the XIth Plan. As on January 2012, out of 638 locations being covered, the CONFONET scheme is operational in 342 Consumer Fora. 268 Consumer Fora are uploading cause lists while 186 Consumer Fora are uploading judgments.

ANNEXURE I

**INFORMATION REGARDING FUNCTIONAL/NON-FUNCTIONAL
(STATE COMMISSIONS/DISTRICT FORUMS)**

(update on 29.02.2012)

Sl. No.	States	Whether SC Functional or Non-functional	No. of District Fora	Functional	Non- functional	As on
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Yes	29	29	0	31.12.2011
2.	A & N Islands	Yes	1	1	0	31.03.2006
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Yes	16	13	3	31.12.2011
4.	Assam	Yes	27	27	0	30.09.2011
5.	Bihar	Yes	38	38	0	31.03.2011
6.	Chandigarh	Yes	2	2	0	31.12.2011
7.	Chhattisgarh	Yes	16	16	0	31.12.2011
8.	Daman & Diu	Yes	2	2	0	31.03.2011
9.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Yes	1	1	0	31.03.2011
10.	Delhi	Yes	10	10	0	30.09.2011
11.	Gao	Yes	2	2	0	31.12.2011
12.	Gujarat	Yes	30	30	0	31.12.2011
13.	Haryana	Yes	21	19	2	31.12.2011
14.	Himachal Pradesh	Yes	12	12	0	31.12.2011
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	Yes	2	2	0	31.03.2009
16.	Jharkhand	Yes	22	16	6	30.09.2011
17.	Karnataka	Yes	30	30	0	31.12.2011
18.	Kerala	Yes	14	14	0	31.12.2010
19.	Lakshadweep	Yes	1	1	0	31.12.2011
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Yes	48	48	0	31.12.2011
21.	Maharashtra	Yes	40	40	0	30.06.2011
22.	Manipur	Yes	9	9	0	31.12.2008
23.	Meghalaya	Yes	7	7	0	30.11.2011
24.	Mizoram	Yes	8	8	0	31.12.2010
25.	Nagaland	Yes	8	8	0	31.12.2008
26.	Odisha	Yes	31	31	0	31.12.2011
27.	Puducherry	Yes	1	1	0	30.09.2011
28.	Punjab	Yes	20	20	0	31.12.2011
29.	Rajasthan	Yes	34	33	1	30.09.2011
30.	Sikkim	Yes	4	4	0	31.12.2011
31.	Tamil Nadu	Yes	30	14	16	31.12.2011
32.	Tripura	Yes	4	4	0	31.12.2011
33.	Uttar Pradesh	Yes	75	75	0	31.12.2011
34.	Uttaranchal	Yes	13	13	0	31.12.2011
35.	West Bengal	Yes	21	21	0	31.12.2010
TOTAL			629	601	28	

ANNEXURE II

**INFORMATION REGARDING VACANCY POSITION IN THE STATE
COMMISSIONS AND DISTRICT FORUMS**

(Update on 29.02.2012)

Sl. No.	State	State Commission		District Forum		As on
		President	Member	President	Member	
	National Commission	0	4	—	—	31.12.2011
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	4	9	15	31.12.2011
2.	A & N Islands	0	1	0	0	31.03.2006
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	14	31.12.2011
4.	Assam	0	0	0	6	31.08.2011
5.	Bihar	0	1	1	6	31.05.2011
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	31.12.2011
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	11	31.12.2011
8.	Daman & Diu and DNH	0	0	0	2	31.03.2011
9.	Delhi	0	1	0	1	31.12.2011
10.	Goa	0	0	1	2	31.01.2012
11.	Gujarat	0	0	2	20	31.12.2011
12.	Haryana	0	1	6	23	31.12.2011
13.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	3	31.12.2011
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	31.12.2011
15.	Jharkhand	0	1	5	14	30.09.2011
16.	Karnataka	0	1	2	5	31.12.2011
17.	Kerala	0	0	0	1	31.12.2010
18.	Lakshadweep	0	1	0	1	31.12.2011
19.	Madhya Pradesh	0	1	1	29	31.12.2011
20.	Maharashtra	0	3	8	23	30.06.2011
21.	Manipur	0	0	0	1	31.12.2008
22.	Meghalaya	1	0	0	1	30.11.2011
23.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	08.03.2010
24.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	31.12.2008
25.	Odisha	0	0	1	7	31.12.2011
26.	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	31.12.2011
27.	Punjab	0	3	2	4	31.12.2011
28.	Rajasthan	0	3	2	7	30.11.2011
29.	Sikkim	0	0	0	1	31.12.2011
30.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	1	31	31.12.2011
31.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	31.12.2011
32.	Uttar Pradesh	1	2	2	2	31.01.2012
33.	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	7	31.12.2011
34.	West Bengal	0	2	2	2	31.12.2010
	TOTAL	2	21	45	239	

ANNEXURE III

**STATE-WISE DETAILS OF ASSISTANCE RELEASED DURING THE LAST
FOUR YEARS UNDER THE SCHEME OF STRENGTHENING OF CONSUMER
FORA (SCF) [AS ON 29.02.2012]**

(Amount in lakh of Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Assistance released in SCF Scheme				Total Amount Released
		2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	210.85	—	—	—	210.85
2.	Gujarat	508.25	393.33	455.50	—	1357.08
3.	Haryana	—	75.00	—	—	75.00
4.	Karnataka	384.61	—	—	—	384.61
5.	Kerala	—	—	38.43	15.00	53.43
6.	Meghalaya	—	29.60	—	—	29.60
7.	Odisha	103.50	—	—	—	103.50
8.	Punjab	—	55.88	57.55	18.75	132.18
9.	Rajasthan	—	146.69	—	—	146.69
10.	Sikkim	—	—	20.50	12.50	33.00
11.	Tripura	20.85	—	46.20	—	67.05
12.	Uttar Pradesh	91.81	—	227.66	—	319.47
13.	Nagaland	—	—	204.00	260.25	464.25
14.	Mizoram	—	—	7.72	—	7.72
15.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	196.79	196.79
16.	W. Bengal	—	—	—	148.21	148.21
Total		1319.87	700.50	1057.56	651.50	3729.43

APPENDIX IV

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 7398

ANSWERED ON 22.05.2012

Consumer Protection Act

7398. SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expand the coverage under the Consumer Protection Act in future;
- (b) if so, the details worked out so far; and
- (c) the manner in which it would be beneficial to the consumers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) (a) to (c): Yes Madam, the Government is proposing to expand coverage, by amending the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. When the amendment is passed the consumer can make online complaints, sitting at home, without having to go to the Consumer Fora.

APPENDIX V

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5569
ANSWERED ON 30.4.2013

Export of Agricultural Commodities

5569. SHRI MAHABALI SINGH:

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

- (a) whether some agricultural commodities are barred from export and futures trading;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its impact on revenue earning of the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to liberalise the foodgrain market in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Export of agricultural commodities are generally governed by domestic availability, national priorities, international prices and related factors. Most of the agricultural commodities are free to export. However, the export of edible oils and pulses are restricted due to mismatch between their domestic production and consumption. The export of pulses is banned (except export of Kabuli chana and 10,000 MT of organic lentils and pulses per annum). The export of edible oils is also banned except following:

- (i) Castor Oil
- (ii) Coconut oil
- (iii) Deemed export of edible oils (as input raw material) from DTA to 100% EOU.
- (iv) Edible oils from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to Sepcial Economic Zones (SEZs).
- (v) Edible oils produced out of minor forest produce.
- (vi) 10,000 MTs of Organic edible oils per annum.
- (vii) Edible oils in branded consumer packs of upto 5 Kgs. is permitted with a Minimum Export Price of USD 1500 per MT.

However, as per the present policy of the Government, export of wheat and non-basmati rice is allowed under Open General Licence (OGL) from privately held stocks since 09.09.2011.

At present, three commodities are under suspension from futures trading on commodity exchanges. These are Tur, Urad and Rice. Rice was suspended on 27th February, 2007 and Tur and Urad on 23rd January 2007. Futures trading in these commodities was suspended only as a measure of abundant precaution in the wake of rising prices.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected.

APPENDIX VI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 222
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2014

Standards and Testing of Food Products

*222. SHRI RAMA KISHORE SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of sale of sub-standard food products and beverages in the market and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any norms/rules have been formulated regarding the quality standards and testing of food products and beverages, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for compliance of such norms/rules;
- (c) whether any consultations have been held with various stakeholders including Ministries/Departments and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in this regard and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to put in place a new arrangement for testing and formulation of quality norms and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the effective steps taken to create awareness among the consumers about the quality of food products and beverages?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 222 FOR 09.12.2014 REGARDING STANDARDS AND TESTING OF FOOD PRODUCTS.

(a) Yes, Madam. As per information received from State/UT Governments, the number of food samples analysed is 72,200 out of which 13,571 have been found adulterated and misbranded in the year 2013-14.

(b) The standards for food products and beverages are prescribed in Food Safety and Standards (Food Product standards and food additives) Regulation, 2011 & Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, toxins and residues Regulation, 2011. Every Food Business Operator in the country has to follow and comply with Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Rules & Regulations, 2011 made thereunder. As per Section 29 of FSS Act, 2006, the Food Authority and the State Food Safety Authorities shall monitor and verify that the relevant requirements of

law are fulfilled by food business operators at all stages of food business. The enforcement of the provisions of the Act, rules and regulations thereunder is primarily with the respective States/UTs. Accordingly, samples are drawn regularly by State/UT Governments and action is taken against the offenders in cases where samples are found to be non-conforming. Further, there are 152 Food Testing Laboratories under the purview of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for testing food products and beverages as per standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules/Regulation, 2011.

(c) Yes, Madam. The draft regulations were notified in Gazette of India on 20th October, 2010 giving 60 days time for inviting suggestions/comments from all stakeholders. The draft was also uploaded on the FSSAI website www.fssai.gov.in for comments/suggestions from various stakeholders including the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). After considering the comments/suggestions from the stakeholders, the regulations were finalized and notified on 1st August, 2011.

(d) Modernization/upgradation of food testing labs and formulation of quality norms is a continuous process. Further, FSSAI is in the process of harmonizing the existing Indian Standards with Codex and other international best practices.

(e) The consumers have been and are being made aware about food safety through mass media campaigns, documentary films, educational booklets, and stalls at Fairs/Melas/Events.

श्री रामा किशोर सिंह (वैशाली): महोदया, जो उत्तर आया है, इसके लिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ। आज मिलावट पूरे देश के लिए बहुत गम्भीर चुनौती बन गई है। चाहे दूध में मिलावट हो, चाहे खाद्य पदार्थ में मिलावट हो, चाहे पेय पदार्थ में मिलावट हो, उसके कारण आदमी का स्वास्थ्य प्रभावित हो रहा है। यह बहुत गम्भीर विषय है। उसके बावजूद भी जो कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए और जो व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए, आज वह हमारे देश में नहीं है।

हम आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहते हैं कि क्या सरकार सुप्रीम कोर्ट के हाल के परामर्श के आलोक में खाद्य और पेय पदार्थों में मिलावट को रोकने हेतु कठोर दण्ड यानी आजीवन कारावास की सजा देने का कानून बनाने का कोई विचार है? यदि हां, तो कब तक?

श्री राम विलास पासवान: महोदया, जहां तक खाद्य पदार्थ का मामला है, यह एफएसएसएओई के द्वारा डील होता है। फूड सेफ्टी एंड स्टैंडर्ड अथारिटी के माध्यम से हम लोग स्टैंडर्ड तय करते हैं। जैसा कि हमने जबाब में कहा है, हमारे पास तीन साल का आंकड़ा है। यह आंकड़ा हम हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री के माध्यम से राज्य सरकार के द्वारा लेते हैं। चूंकि अलग-अलग जो बीजाईएस हमारा है, हमारी मिनिस्ट्री एक सेन्ट्रल एजेंसी नहीं है। अलग-अलग मंत्रालय में अलग-अलग काम होते हैं, मिसलीडिंग एडवरटीजमेंट का काम अलग होता है, खाद्य का अलग होता है। हमारी जानकारी के मुताबिक जो जांच किए गए नमूने वर्ष 2011-2012 में थे, वे 64,593 थे, उसमें 8,247 सही पाए गए। प्रोसीक्यूशन 6,845 हुए जो सजा हुई, वह 764 में हुई। वर्ष 2012-2013 का भी आंकड़ा है, वर्ष 2013-14 का लेटेस्ट आंकड़ा है कि जो सैंपल जांच किए गए, उनकी संख्या 72,200 थी, उनमें से 13,571 सही पाए गए। प्रोसीक्यूशन 10,235 का हुआ और सजा 3,845 को हुई।

श्री रामा किशोर सिंह (वैशाली): महोदया, आज हमारे देश में जांच की एजेंसी एफ०एस०एस०आई० है, उसके अधीन 151 प्रयोगशालाएं हैं। इनमें से 68 प्रयोगशालाएं एफ०एस०एस०आई० से मान्यता प्राप्त हैं और शेष 83 प्रयोगशालायें एन०ए०बी०एल० द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त नहीं हैं। जो आंकड़े मिलावट के सामने आए हैं, उसमें जो दोषी पाए गए हैं, मैं बिहार का ही उदाहरण देता हूं, वहां 251 मामले क्रिमिनल और सिविल कोर्ट में गए हैं। वहां एक केस में भी कोई दोषी सिद्ध नहीं हुआ और कोई पकड़ा नहीं गया। सही ढंग से जांच नहीं होने के कारण ऐसा हुआ। यहां तक कि वहां अधिकारियों की भी कमी है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या देश में मिलावटी खाद्य पदार्थों, पेय पदार्थों की जांच के लिए खाद्य प्रयोगशाला, फूड सेफ्टी ऑफिसर्स की समुचित तैनाती, खाद्य परीक्षण प्रयोगशालाओं का नियमित आधुनिकीकरण, केन्द्रीय स्तर पर नियमित रूप से मिश्रण का डेटा एकत्र करने और दोषी व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई करने हेतु एक प्रभावी तंत्र की स्थापना करेंगे?

श्री राम विलास पासवान: अध्यक्ष महोदया, उन्होंने पहले प्रश्न के 'बी' पार्ट में सजा की बात कही है। हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री के मुताबिक दो तरह के फूड्स होते हैं—एक अनसेफ फूड और दूसरा खराब क्वालिटी का फूड। जो अनसेफ फूड होते हैं, that does not result in injury जिनसे नुकसान नहीं होता है उसके लिए 6 माह की जेल और 1,00,000 रुपए का जुर्माना है। जो नॉन प्रिवियस इंज्यूरिज हैं उनके लिए 1 साल की जेल और 3,00,000 रुपए का जुर्माना है, जो प्रिवियस इंज्यूरिज हैं उनके लिए 6 साल की जेल और 5,00,000 रुपए का जुर्माना है। जो रिजल्ट इन डेथ है, उसमें कम से कम 7 साल की जेल है, आजीवन कारावास और 10,00,000 रुपए का जुर्माना है। जो खराब क्वालिटी का खाना है उसके सबस्टैंडर्ड में 5,00,000 रुपए का जुर्माना है, मिस ब्रांडेड फूड में 3,00,000 रुपए का जुर्माना है, मिसलिंग एडवर्टिजमेंट के लिए 10,00,000 रुपए तक का जुर्माना है, food extraneous materials के लिए एक लाख रुपए का जुर्माना है। जो पजैशन ऑफ एडलट्रेट है उसमें नॉनइंज्यूरियस के लिए 2,00,000 रुपए का जुर्माना है और इंज्यूरियस के लिए 10,00,000 रुपए का जुर्माना है। इन्होंने कहा है कि हमारे पास में जो फूड टेस्टिंग लेवोरेट्रिज हैं। सेफ्टी स्टेट का मामला है, चूंकि सारा का सारा काम स्टेट के पास है। हमको यह कहने में कोई आपत्ति नहीं है कि स्टेट में इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर नाम की कोई भी चीज नहीं है। वहां स्टीयरिंग कमेटी, स्टेट फूड सेफ्टी कमिशनर उसके अधीन कमेटी होनी चाहिए, जिला स्तर पर डेजिगनेटड ऑफिसर्स होने चाहिए, कहीं कुछ नहीं है। इस देश में 125 करोड़ कंज्यूर्मस हैं। राष्ट्रपति जी से लेकर चपरासी तक सब कंज्यूर्मस हैं। सबको कुछ न कुछ खरीदना पड़ता है। इस बात से हम स्वयं संतुष्ट नहीं हैं, लेकिन सेन्ट्रल गवर्नर्मेंट के पास कोई अर्थारिटी नहीं है। उन्होंने एफ०एस०एस०आई० के संबंध में कहा है।

हम आपके माध्यम से राज्य सरकार से निवेदन करते हैं कि दूसरे राज्यों में फूड एडलट्रेशन का मामला बहुत गंभीरता से लिया जाता है, लेकिन हम उसे गंभीरता से नहीं लेते हैं। मैं राज्य सरकार से भी आग्रह करना चाहता हूं कि जो उसके लिए कानून है, अगर उसमें संशोधन करने की आवश्यकता है तो वे उसमें संशोधन करें। भारत सरकार उसमें हर तरह से सहयोग करने के लिए तैयार है। उसके लिए कड़ी से कड़ी सजा की ही व्यवस्था न की जाए, बल्कि जो लोग भी उसमें दोषी पाए जाएं उनके खिलाफ कड़ी कार्रवाई की जाए। हमारे पास में सजा का प्रावधान है। हम पिछले 10 दिनों से जानकारी मांग रहे हैं कि कितने लोगों के खिलाफ क्या कार्रवाई हुई है, कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं आ रही है।

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Madam Speaker, we have two very effective legislations for food safety and standards. But the implementation of these Acts is done by State Governments. Even though the Government of India has enacted these two legislations, my request to the hon. Minister is that we should intervene with State Governments so that these laws are effectively implemented and there should be effective awareness campaigns so that consumers know what their right is.

श्री राम विलास पासवानः अध्यक्ष महोदया, जैसा मैंने पहले कहा है कि फूड एडलट्रेशन एक्ट 1954 के मुताबिक चलता था। वर्ष 2006 में फूड सेफ्टी एण्ड स्टैंडर्ड एक्ट बना उसके अधीन वर्ष 2011 में रूल्स एण्ड रेगुलेशंस बने, उसी के अंदर अर्थारिटी भी बनाया गया है। माननीय सदस्य, जो पहले मंत्री भी थे, ने कहा है तो उसमें दिक्कत यह है कि यह मामला हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री से संबंधित है। हम लोगों ने एक इंटरमिनिस्ट्रियल कमेटी बनायी है उसमें किसी भी डिपार्टमेंट का मामला हो, कम से कम उसमें कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए। एक डिपार्टमेंट का मामला दूसरे डिपार्टमेंट पर नहीं छोड़ कर, कोआर्डिनेट-वे में होना चाहिए, उसके लिए हम स्वयं प्रयत्नशील हैं। अगर आवश्यकता होगी तो अपने हेल्थ मिनिस्टर से कहेंगे कि राज्यों के हेल्थ मिनिस्टर्स के साथ बैठक बुलायें और वह देखें कि कैसे उस कानून को मजबूत किया जा सकता है, उन पर कैसे कार्रवाई की जा सकती है।

श्री शरद त्रिपाठी (संत कबीर नगर): अध्यक्ष महोदया, प्रश्न संख्या 222 के कॉलम 'ख' के अंतर्गत, जो खाद्य पदार्थों के संबंध में है, खाद्य पदार्थों की गुणवत्ता के लिए जो भी पेय पदार्थ या खाद्य पदार्थ बहुत दिनों तक रखे जाते हैं, उनके प्रिजर्वेशन के लिए अब तक सोडियम बाइकार्बोनेट का प्रयोग होता आ रहा है। आयुर्वेदिक पद्धति द्वारा भी प्रिजर्वेशन की व्यवस्था है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या मंत्री जी स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के साथ समन्वय बनाकर भारतीय पद्धति, आयुर्वेदिक पद्धति द्वारा प्रिजर्वेशन की व्यवस्था के लिए कोई नीति निर्धारण करने का कष्ट करेंगे?

श्री राम विलास पासवानः अध्यक्ष महोदया, माननीय सदस्य ने जो सुझाव दिया है, उसे हम पास आँन कर देंगे। ... (व्यवधान) रामा किशोर सिंह जी ने बिहार के संबंध में एक सवाल पूछा था, यह दुख की बात है कि बिहार में न ही अभी तक स्टिरिंग कमेटी बनी है और न ही मामले पर विचार करने के लिए कोई ट्राइब्यूनल है।

श्री सुल्तान अहमद (उलुबेरिया): अध्यक्ष महोदया, फूड एडलट्रेशन और विजाल के मामले में मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि सूबे या राज्यों के हाथ में क्षमता दी गई है और केन्द्र सरकार भी फूड लेबोरेटरी के तहत यह काम करती है। उन्होंने कहा कि विदेश में विजाल के खिलाफ जबरदस्त कानून है, वहां एक्शन होता है, लेकिन हमारे देश में नहीं होता। दो लाख रुपये से लेकर दस लाख रुपये तक फाइन, लेकिन चाहे तेल में हो, दूध में हो या खाने की चीजों में हो, विजाल पाया जाता है। क्या सरकार सोच रही है कि कुछ ऐंजैमप्लरी पनिशमेंट, कड़ी से कड़ी सजा के लिए कोई कानून बनाया जाए जिससे विजाल को रोका जा सके? इसका अफैक्ट, मंत्री महोदय कह रहे हैं कि हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री, फूड प्रोसैसिंग, लेकिन देश के 125 करोड़ कनज्यूमर्स को एडलट्रेशन से कैसे सुरक्षा दे सकते हैं? क्या आप ऐसे किसी कानून के बारे में सोच रहे हैं?

श्री राम विलास पासवानः अध्यक्ष जी, जैसे मैंने कहा एक लाख रुपये से लेकर आजीवन कारावास तक भी सजा है। लेकिन मैं पार्लियामेंट में एक चीज बार-बार कहता हूं कि एक्ट अलग है,

फैक्ट अलग है और टैक्ट भी अलग है। इसलिए कानून में कोई कमी नहीं है, कानून को कैसे कार्यान्वित किया जाए, इसकी जवाबदेही केन्द्र सरकार के पास नहीं है, राज्य सरकार के पास है। हमारा फैडरल स्ट्रक्चर है। उसमें हम इससे ज्यादा नहीं जा सकते।

APPENDIX VII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5635
ANSWERED ON 28.4.2015

Consumer Rights

5635. SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend the consumer protection law to include compensation to the consumers for inconvenience caused to them apart from paying, replacing or recalling the products, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Government proposes to bring stringent frame work of standards at manufacturing stages particularly for food industries with provision for monitoring the quality of goods and punishment for violations to help country turn into a manufacturing hub and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The existing Consumer Protection Act, 1986 already provides that the Consumer Courts can order to pay such amount as may be awarded by it as compensation to the consumer for any loss or injury suffered by the consumer due to the negligence of the opposite party. The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 is being amended in which a provision for product liability is proposed to be included, to make manufacturers of unsafe products liable for penalty.

(b) Under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986, licensed manufacturers are required to follow the Scheme of Testing and Inspection (STI), which stipulates the appropriate controls to be exercised at the manufacturing stages. In case of any deficiency, necessary action is taken such as stopping ISI marking, non-renewal and cancellation of license. The Government proposes to amend the BIS Act, 1986 providing, *inter alia*, for introduction of penal provisions for non-compliance of quality norms.

Further, under the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Regulation, 2011 prescribes the general hygienic and sanitary practices to be followed by the Food Business Operators. The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 provides for penal provisions for unhygienic or unsanitary processing or manufacturing of food. This Act is also under review to ensure greater consumer protection.

APPENDIX VIII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2325

ANSWERED ON 04.08.2015

National Building Code

2325. SHRI G HARI:

SHRIMATI VANAROJA R.:

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

- (a) whether the Government has finalized the National Building Code-2015;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also true that this will help to obtain single window clearance for construction projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) & (b) No, Madam. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has taken up revision of the National Building Code of India 2005 (NBC-2005) which is planned to be finalized in 2015 as National Building Code-2015.

(c) & (d) Yes, Madam. The existing NBC-2005 already contains the provision of a Single Window Clearance System for approval of development and building projects. This provision would continue to exist in the revised NBC.

APPENDIX IX

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 222
ANSWERED ON 10.05.2016

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities

*222. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI B.S. YEDIYURAPPA:

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

- (a) whether prices of essential commodities including those monitored by Price Monitoring Cell continued to rise over a period of time despite various steps taken by the Government, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has received all necessary information/logistics on price trends during the last three years, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to check hoarding and ensure compliance with various rules related to supply of essential commodities and price control by the States, if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (d) whether any assessment has been made about impact of water shortage on prices and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 222 FOR 10.05.2016 REGARDING RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

(a) Prices of most of the essential food items monitored by Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) has remained relatively stable or declined over the year. The food items which showed an increase in prices include pulses (especially tur, urad and chana), potato and sugar. Increase in prices of food items is mainly on account of shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities and artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing. The details are at **Annexure I**.

(b) Yes, Sir. The requisite information is given at **Annexures II & III**.

(c) States have been advised to take effective action against hoarders of essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act 1980. States/UTs have been conducting raids and seized pulses are being disposed, as per the provisions under the EC Act, 1955. The Action Taken Report is given at **Annexure IV**.

(d) Water shortage adversely affects the sown area and productivity of crops. The resultant shortfall in production in turn affects the quantum of market arrivals and thereby prices. However, no official assessment of direct impact of water shortage on prices has been made.

ANNEXURE I

ALL INDIA AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES (Rs./Kg)

Commodities	Prices as on (5/5/2016)*	Prices as on (5/5/2015)	Percent change
Rice	26.92	27.29	-1.36
Wheat	23.3	22.06	5.62
Atta (Wheat)	24.49	24.34	0.62
Gram Dal	72.33	53.5	35.2
Tur/Arhar Dal	141.38	87.92	60.81
Urad Dal	149.39	86.37	72.97
Moong Dal	101.34	100.97	0.37
Masoor Dal	83.07	76.33	8.83
Sugar	38.93	31.85	22.23
Milk [@]	40.25	38.93	3.39
Groundnut Oil (Packed)	128.28	120.9	6.1
Mustard Oil (Packed)	108.95	99.6	9.39
Vanaspati (Packed)	73.22	75.55	-3.08
Sola Oil (Packed)	82.09	85.32	-3.79
Sunflower Oil (Packed)	95.14	94.48	0.7
Palm Oil (Packed)	69.32	67.58	2.57
Gur	40.93	40.29	1.59
Tea Loose	197.67	205.05	-3.6
Salt Pack (Iodised)	14.8	14.65	1.02
Potato	18.52	13.48	37.39
Onion	16.33	22.02	-25.84
Tomato	22.8	25.08	-9.09

NR->Not Reported *-> (Iodised)@--> (Rs./Ltr.) *latest available

Source:- State civil supplies Department

ANNEXURE II

**RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FOR
LAST THREE YEARS**

Sl.No.	Commodities	ALL INDIA AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES (Rs./Kg)			ALL INDIA AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES (Rs./Qtl)		
		2016-17 as on (5.5.2016)*	2015-16 as on (5.5.2015)	2014-15 as on (5.5.2014)	2016-17 as on (5.5.2016)	2015-16 as on (5.5.2015)	2014-15 as on (5.5.2014)
1.	Rice	26.92	27.29	27.08	2410.66	2442.5	2447.56
2.	Wheat	23.3	22.06	20.81	2066.96	1988.78	1858.4
3.	Atta (Wheat)	24.49	24.34	22.94	2164.29	2154.92	2017.7
4.	Gram Dal	72.33	53.5	47.96	6721.13	4909.63	4343.62
5.	Tur/Arhar Dal	141.38	87.92	69.92	13278.55	8345.58	6552.45
6.	Urad Dal	149.39	86.37	66.78	14006.1	8142.28	6176.17
7.	Moong Dal	101.34	100.97	87.76	9355.12	9482.69	8246.36
8.	Masoor Dal	83.07	76.33	63.04	7643.1	7110.42	5818.14
9.	Sugar	38.93	31.85	36.12	3621.02	2894.83	3374.67
10.	Milk [®]	40.25	38.93	36.51	3748.83	3704.92	3471.13
11.	Groundnut Oil (Packed)	128.28	120.9	121.61	12090.62	11379.4	11355.58
12.	Mustard Oil (Packed)	108.95	99.6	97.38	9981.67	9242.74	8907.23
13.	Vanaspati (Packed)	73.22	75.55	76.58	6792.69	6969.32	7163.71
14.	Soya Oil (Packed)	82.09	85.32	85.46	7609.45	7774.88	7900.21
15.	Sunflower Oil (Packed)	95.14	94.48	95.21	9017.24	8873.96	8951.42
16.	Palm Oil (Packed)	69.32	67.58	71.56	6516.3	6552.21	6760.38
17.	Gur	40.93	40.29	39.12	3658.75	3496.9	3463.32
18.	Tea Loose	197.67	205.05	205.11	18024.03	18322.7	17650
19.	Salt Pack (Iodised)	14.8	14.65	14.24	1249.75	1266.13	1229.07
20.	Potato	18.52	13.48	19.64	1467.47	1021.05	1532.77
21.	Onion	16.33	22.02	17.96	1221.42	1711.63	1369.96
22.	Tomato	22.8	25.08	18.58	1796.18	1918.1	1380.84

*--> (Iodised) @-> (Rs./Ltr.) * latest available

Source:- State civil supplies Department

ANNEXURE III

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE AVAILABILITY AND TO CONTAIN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS

General Measure:

1. National Consultation Meeting of the minister of states/UTs in-charge of Consumer Affairs and Food held on 7th July, 2015 at New Delhi resolved to take steps to keep prices of essential commodities, especially Pulses and onion under control.
2. Advisory were issued to State Governments to take strict action against hoarding & black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 & the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
3. Regular review meeting on price and availability situation is being held at the highest level including at the level of Finance Minister, Committee of Secretaries, Inter Ministerial Committee, Price Stabilization Fund Management Committee and other Departmental level review meetings.
4. Higher MSP has been announced so as to incentivize production and thereby enhance availability of food items which may help moderate prices.
5. A Plan Scheme titled Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is being implemented to regulate price volatility of agricultural commodities.

Specific Measures:

Onion

6. Export of onion were restricted through imposition of Minimum Export Price (MEP) when prices were ruling high and import is allowed at zero duty.
7. Retail sale of onion was undertaken from the stock held by SFAC and NAFED.
8. Imported 2000 MT of onion from Egypt and China through MMTC. As no demands from States were received, the onion were disposed off through tender in the open market.
9. The stock limits in respect of onion have been extended by one more year *i.e.* up to 2nd July 2016 under the Essential Commodities Act.
10. Procurement of 15000 MT of onion by SFAC and NAFED for market intervention during lean period has been approved.

Pulses

11. Export of all pulses is banned except kabuli channa and up to 1,000 MTs in organic pulses and lentils.

12. Import of pulses are allowed at zero import duty.
13. Stock limit on pulses extended till 30.9.2016.
14. Government imported 5000 MT of Tur from Malawi/Mozambique and allocated it to States for retail sale to consumers to improve availability and to moderate prices.
15. MSP (including bonus) raised for kharif pulses for Tur and Urad and Moong. MSP also raised for Rabi pulses for Gram and Masoor.
16. Government has approved creation of buffer stock of 1.5 lakh MT of pulses for effective market intervention.
17. Government has decided to immediately release 10,000 MT of pulses from the buffer stock (consisting of 8,000 MT of Tur and 2,000 MT of Urad) to States/ UTs at subsidized rates for retailing by them at not more than Rs. 120/- per kg to improve availability and stabilise prices.
18. Regulatory measures by Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Chana contracts including increase in the margin requirement to discourage speculation and to moderate the price volatility in forward market and close monitoring by SEBI.
19. Strict vigilance by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence to prevent importers from misusing the facilities of Customs Bonded Warehouse facility.
20. Setting up of a Group of Officers for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization, etc.

Edible Oils

21. Export of edible oils in bulk is prohibited except coconut oil and other edible oils in branded consumer packs of up to 5 kgs is permitted with a minimum export price of USD 900 per MT.
22. MSP increased for various rabi and kharif oil seeds.

ANNEXURE IV

**STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. 222 FOR 10.5.2016 REGARDING RISE IN PRICES OF
ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES**

**ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955
DURING 2016**

(Relating to offences under EC Act—for other than violation of stock control
orders/for violation of stock control orders)

Updated as on 03.05.2016

Sl. No.	STATES/UTs	No. of Raids Conducted			No. Persons Arrest- ed Prose- cuted Conv- icted		Value of goods Confis- cated (Rs. in Lakhs)	Deten- tions Order- ed	Reported upto	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil		Nil		Nil		Nil		January
2.	Delhi	1		-		-		-		January
3.	Goa	8		Nil		Nil		Nil		March
4.	Gujarat	1641		0		1		21.29	4	February
5.	Haryana	17		-		-		-		*
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3912		-		-		5.03		February
7.	Kerala	10		4		1		0.10		January
8.	Maharashtra	75		93		45		26.95		February
9.	Manipur	Nil		Nil		Nil		Nil		January
10.	Mizoram	3		-		-		-		January
11.	Nagaland	Nil		Nil		Nil		Nil		January
12.	Rajasthan	35		Nil		Nil		Nil		*
13.	Sikkim	30		-		-		-		February
14.	Telangana	479		67		5		25.52	7	February
15.	Uttarakhand	591		2		-		-		March (Except Feb.)
16.	Uttar Pradesh	10886		27		21		30.84		March
17.	West Bengal	113		23		11		9043.96		February
18.	A & N Islands	29		-		-		-		March
19.	Chandigarh	Nil		Nil		Nil		Nil		February
20.	D & N Haveli	Nil		Nil		Nil		Nil		February
21.	Puducherry	231		-		-		0.14		March
22.	Tamil Nadu	NR		NR		NR		NR	50	—
	TOTAL	18061		216		84		9153.83	61	

Note: Other States have not submitted report so far. NR : Note Reported,

*: Raids under Pulses only

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Madam Speaker, as has been stated in the reply and as also is evident in the market, by and large, prices of essential commodities are under control, except Urd, Chana and some increase in the prices of sugar and potato, the prices, by and large are under control. The Wholesale Price Index also reflects that.

One of the foremost steps taken by this Government to ensure the better governance and transparency in the field of future trading was to see that commodity brokers are brought directly under the supervision of SEBI. This was due to the merger of Forward Market Commission with the SEBI.

Even the Finance Minister had in his Budget Speech recommended the merger of SEBI and FMC in order to curb wild speculative behaviour. The FMC has been regulating the commodity markets since 1953, but it was seen that they have lacked the muscle to control the alleged irregularities in this market segment.

My question to the hon. Minister is this. After having merged these two organisations, to regulate it properly, whether the Ministry has assessed the impact of merger of FMC with SEBI on trading in the futures market in the essential commodities. If so, has the speculative behaviour considerably reduced as a direct consequence of the merger? By that, whether the prices of the essential commodities are reducing because of this merger. What is the assessment of the Government?

श्री राम विलास पासवानः मैडम, इसके लिए इंटर-मिनिस्टरीरियल कमेटी बनी हुई है। इन वस्तुओं को वह कमेटी देख रही है, ज्यों ही उसका निर्णय होगा, हम बता देंगे।

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): As per the reports received from the State Governments on pulses seized under de-holding operations and auction or offloading the same to increase the availability, Karnataka Government has seized 25,445.82 MT, which is one of the highest seizures by the State Government. But, out of them, only 371 tonnes, that is, just 1.5 per cent of the quantum seized has been auctioned. Whereas Chhattisgarh has auctioned 30 per cent; Madhya Pradesh has auctioned 50 per cent of the stocks seized. By auctioning this and releasing it to the market, automatically prices will be reduced. But the Karnataka Government, which has seized, has just auctioned 1.5 per cent of the total seizure. Besides this, as per the reply of the Minister, the Karnataka Government has not submitted the reports of the action taken under the Essential Commodities Act. Unfortunately, the State Government has not also submitted any such report even though it had many cases of hoarding and black market trading of pulses. Because of that, in Karnataka, prices of pulses have gone up.

My question to the hon. Minister is, whether the Central Government will take steps to ensure that the State Governments especially the Government of Karnataka, take measures for price stability and availability of the pulses by auctioning the seized pulses.... (*Interruptions*) I would also like to know whether the reasons have been given by those State Governments, including Karnataka, who have not

submitted report of action taken under the Essential Commodities Act. ...*(Interruptions)*.

Not only they have not seized, they are just bothered whether Siddaramaiah should be continued or not. They are more bothered in that. They are not able to auction the commodities which have been seized. I would like to know whether the Central Government is going to give any directives to the State Government. This is my question.

श्री राम विलास पासवानः अध्यक्ष जी, जैसा माननीय सदस्य ने कहा, यह सही है कि जिन 22 आवश्यक वस्तुओं की हम निगरानी करते हैं, दाल को छोड़कर उनमें से किसी जीच का दाम नहीं बढ़ा है। दाल का दाम बढ़ने का कारण यह है कि इसका उत्पादन कम है और डिमाण्ड ज्यादा है। पिछले साल, वर्ष 2015-16 में 173 लाख टन उत्पादन हुआ था और डिमाण्ड 237 लाख टन थी। प्राइवेट पार्टीज के द्वारा 58 लाख टन दाल का आयात किया गया। इसके अलावा एक मुख्य मुद्रा जमाखोरी है। जमाखोरी और कालाबाजारी का जो मुद्रा है, मैंने पिछली बार भी अपने जवाब में कहा था कि यह मुख्य रूप से राज्य सरकार की जवाबदेही है। एसेंसियल कमोडिटीज एक्ट के तहत हमने राज्य सरकार को अधिकार दे दिया है। राज्य सरकार को जमाखोरी और कालाबाजारी के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्रवाई करने का आदेश भी है। पिछली बार हम लोगों को सूचना मिली थी कि जो इमोर्ट्स हैं, आयात करते हैं, वे पोर्ट पर ही दाल को रख लेते हैं और जब यहां दाम बढ़ जाता है, तब उसे लाने का काम करते हैं। हमारा कस्टम डिपार्टमेंट और राजस्व विभाग इसे गंभीरता से देख रहा है।

आपने सवाल किया है कि पिछली बार जब जमाखोरों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की गयी थी तो महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक और कुछ अन्य राज्यों में सामान बरामद किया था। उस सामान के लिए हमने दो-तीन तरीके बताए थे कि उसको या तो पीडीएस के माध्यम से बेचें या उसको नीलामी करके बेचें, लेकिन यह मामला राज्य सरकार के तहत आता है। कर्नाटक के संबंध में यदि माननीय सदस्य जानकारी चाहते हैं तो हम उनको वह उपलब्ध करवा देंगे।

श्री मानशंकर निनामा (बांसवाड़ा): माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान ग्रामीण रोजगार से जुड़े गम्भीर विषय की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूं।

महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या महंगाई बढ़ने के लिए अन्य देशों में आयी आर्थिक मंदी का भी कोई असर पड़ता है? यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों का तत्संबंधी विवरण दें। विदेशों में आयी आर्थिक मंदी का अपने देश पर असर न पड़े क्या इसके लिए कोई ठोस कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं? यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी व्यौरा दें।

श्री राम विलास पासवानः महोदया, ऑटोमैटिक सवाल का जवाब भी ऑटोमैटिक है।

श्री राजीव सातव (हिंगोली): अध्यक्ष जी, पिछले साल साड़े बारह से पन्द्रह प्रतिशत तक दाल के उत्पादन में कमी आई थी, लेकिन दाल का भाव सौ प्रतिशत से ज्यादा बढ़ा है। जो फिरास हैं, उनके हिसाब से 50 प्रतिशत दाल का प्रोडक्शन बीजेपी शासित राज्यों में होता है। मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि यह राज्य का मामला है। क्या सरकार मानती है कि राज्य सरकार होर्डिंग के ऊपर कार्यवाही करने में असफल हुई है?

श्री राम विलास पासवानः अध्यक्ष जी, मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारे यहां दाल की फसल कम होती है। तिलहन की फसल भी कम होती है लेकिन हम बाहर से आयात करके उसकी कमी को पूरा करते हैं। बाहर से जो हम मांगते हैं, प्राइवेट पार्टी के लोगों को चूंकि उस पर कोई पाबंदी नहीं है, वे लाते हैं। इस परिस्थिति में राज्य सरकार को कार्यवाही करने के लिए बार-बार कहते हैं। यह बात नहीं पूछी गई है, लेकिन फिर भी आपके माध्यम से सदन को जानकारी देना चाहता हूं कि पिछली बार दाल की जो कीमत बढ़ी थी, उसमें हमने शुरू से ही ज्यादा से ज्यादा कोशिश की थी कि हम राज्य सरकार से मांगे कि आपको कितनी आवश्यकता है, जिसकी पूर्ति हम पहले से ही कर सकें। इस बार भी हम राज्य सरकार को बार-बार लिख कर भेज रहे हैं। कुछ राज्य सरकारों ने जरूर मांग की है लेकिन अधिकांश राज्य सरकारें जो भारत सरकार पर ब्लेम लगाती हैं, कहीं से भी हमारे पास उनकी डिमांड नहीं आई है और इसलिए हमने स्टाक लिमिट के अलावा बफर स्टाक 50 लाख टन खरीद लिया है। 22 हजार टन इम्पोर्ट करने का आदेश दिया जा चुका है जिसमें 11 हजार टन इम्पोर्ट हो चुका है। हम एक लाख टन और खरीदने जा रहे हैं। इसके अलावा आयात करने की हमारी प्लानिंग है लेकिन राज्य सरकार से आपके माध्यम से आग्रह करना चाहते हैं कि हम लोगों ने निर्णय किया है कि 66 रुपए किलो के हिसाब से अरहर की दाल देंगे। अलग दालों का अलग भाव है। अरहर की दाल 120 रुपए किलो से ऊपर बेचने का काम राज्य सरकार न करे और दिल्ली में सफल के माध्यम से हम लोग कर रहे हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से राज्य सरकारों को आग्रह करना चाहता हूं कि जिस भी दाल की जितनी भी आवश्यकता हो, वह लिख कर भेज दें, हम उन्हें दाल देंगे और भविष्य में यदि 120 रुपए किलो से ज्यादा दाल की कीमत बढ़ेगी तो राज्य सरकार उसके लिए जिम्मेदार होगी।

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (आज़मगढ़): अध्यक्ष महोदया, यह सवाल बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है और पूरे सदन को संभीरता से लेना चाहिए। देश में गायों की संख्या घटती चली जा रही है। इसका कारण यह है कि गाय के मांस का व्यापार बढ़ रहा है। वे गाय पकड़ते हैं और काटकर अमरीका भेज देते हैं।

उनका जहाज पर भी मैनिपुलेशन है। यह हमें पता चला तो हमने 1600 गायें, हो सकता है ज्यादा हों, हमें पता नहीं, कोई उन्नाव ले जा रहा था, कोई कहीं ले जा रहा था।..... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: मुलायम सिंह जी, प्रश्न दालों के संदर्भ में है।

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (आज़मगढ़): अमरीका गाय का गोश्त पसंद करता है, हमने 1600 गाय बांध रखी हैं।.....(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: मुलायम सिंह जी, प्रश्न दाल के संदर्भ में है।

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (आज़मगढ़): यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है। आप या तो हमें जीरो ऑवर में बोलने का मौका दीजिए।.....(व्यवधान) कम से कम काम तो हो जायेगा और आप सुन तो लेंगे। माननीय गृह मंत्री जी हम 1600 गायें पाल रहे हैं।.....(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : यहां प्रश्न दाल के संदर्भ में है। प्लीज, ऐसा नहीं होता है। आप जानते हैं, ऐसा नहीं होता है। प्रश्न संख्या 223, श्री राजेन्द्र अग्रवाल जी, आप बोलिये।

APPENDIX X

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 294
ANSWERED ON 19.07.2016

Complaints against Consumer Courts

294. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints against the consumer courts for improper functioning and delay in disposal of cases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of cases registered, disposed and pending during the last three years along with the action taken to improve the system;
- (c) whether the Government is working with various trade bodies to minimize the cases of duping of consumers by the companies and if so, the details thereof and response of the industry thereto; and
- (d) whether the Government has a proposal to establish a study group to suggest some more measures to protect the rights of consumers apart from the court route and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The details of such complaints received during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Number
2013	47
2014	28
2015	70

These complaints were forwarded to the National Commission, State Commissions and the State Governments concerned for taking necessary action.

The steps taken to improve the functioning of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions/Fora and to ensure disposal of pending cases are as under:

- (i) The State Governments have been requested from time to time to take action well in advance for filling up of vacancies of President and Members and to maintain a panel of candidates for filling up of future vacancies also to avoid delay in appointments.
- (ii) Circuit Benches from National Commission have been frequently holding camp courts in States.
- (iii) Some State Commissions have constituted Additional Benches mainly to dispose of backlog of pending cases.
- (iv) The National Commission and some of the State Commissions as well as District Fora are adopting the process of holding Lok Adalats for speedy disposal of the cases.
- (v) The Central Government has been providing financial assistance to the State Governments for strengthening the infrastructure of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions/Fora.

(c) The Government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Industry associations and chamber of commerce, to work towards, *inter alia*, addressing consumer related issues and advocacy action against unfair trade practices and preventing fake, counterfeit and sub-standard products and services to enhance consumer protection.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

APPENDIX XI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 224
ANSWERED ON 2.08.2016

Consumer Awareness

*224. SHRI BHARAT SINGH:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:

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

- (a) the details of consumer awareness programmes sanctioned and those pending with the Government during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the funds provided for the said programmes during the said period, State-wise;
- (c) whether the consumer awareness programme has achieved the desired results, especially in rural and other inaccessible areas, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any mechanism is available for assessing/monitoring the implementation of the said programmes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the functioning of the programmes?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 224 FOR 02.08.2016 REGARDING CONSUMER AWARENESS.

(a) & (b) The Government carries out a multi-media "Jago Grahak Jago" campaign on pan India basis. Under this, grants-in-aid are also released to States/UTs for

creating consumer awareness in the respective States/UTs at local level in their regional languages. Details of funds released to States/UTs for consumer awareness activities during the last three years are at **Annexure-I**.

This apart, Grant is also given from Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF) to the States/UTs for setting up of Corpus Fund of Rs. 10.00 crore for undertaking Consumer Awareness/Welfare activities. The ratio of Centre: State share in the Corpus Fund is 75:25. In case of special category States/UTs, the ratio is 90:10. So far, Corpus Fund has been set up in 11 States/UTs viz. Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Haryana. Details of grants released to various States/UTs from CWF during the last 3 years are at Annexure-II.

On two proposals received from Jharkhand and Telangana, clarifications have been sought from the State Governments.

(c) to (e) Impact assessment and monitoring is an on-going process. A study which was carried out on the consumer awareness campaign in 14 States and 1 Union Territory covering 60 districts, revealed that 90.9% of the sample respondents (both urban and rural) are aware of the campaign. Further, Indian Institute of Mass Communication has been tasked to carry out an impact assessment of Jago Grahak Jago campaign carried out from 2012 onwards and to suggest suitable strategies for making the campaign more effective in terms of content and outreach.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 224 FOR 02.08.2016 REGARDING CONSUMER AWARENESS.

Sl. No.	States	Fund Released 2013-14	Fund Released 2014-15	Fund Released 2015-16
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2000000.00	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	2993182.00	2993182.00	Nil
4.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	3000000.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	3000000.00	Nil	Nil
6.	Goa	Nil	500000.00	2000000.00
7.	Gujarat	5000000.00	5000000.00	5000000.00
8.	Haryana	2884528.00	3000000.00	Nil
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2000000.00	Nil	2000000.00
	Special Project	Nil	Nil	2000000.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	2552516.00
	Special Project	Nil	Nil	2947484.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5000000.00	Nil	Nil
15.	Maharashtra	2882000.00	5000000.00	Nil
16.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	2000000.00
18.	Mizoram	Nil	2000000.00	2000000.00
19.	Nagaland	2000000.00	2000000.00	2000000.00
20.	Odisha	Nil	Nil	Nil
21.	Punjab	3000000.00	Nil	Nil
22.	Rajasthan	Nil	4646559.00	5000000.00
23.	Sikkim	Nil	2000000.00	2000000.00
	Special Project	Nil	Nil	2000000.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	Nil
25.	Telangana	Nil	2000000.00	2000000.00
26.	Tripura	2000000.00	2000000.00	2000000.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	9125000.00	8500000.00	Nil
28.	Uttarakhand	Nil	Nil	Nil
29.	West Bengal	4759254.00	4759254.00	5000000.00
	Special Project	Nil	Nil	1500000.00
Union Territories				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Delhi	Nil	2170031.00	Nil
7.	Puducherry	875000.00	Nil	2000000.00
	Total	47518964.00	46569026.00	47000000.00

ANNEXURE

**STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 224 FOR 02.08.2016 REGARDING
CONSUMER AWARENESS**

**FUNDS RELEASED TO THE STATES/UTS FOR SETTING UP A CORPUS FUND
UNDER CONSUMER WELFARE FUND:**

Sl. No.	States	Fund Released 2013-14	Fund Released 2014-15	Fund Released 2015-16
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	438	212	100
2	Bihar	487	Nil	Nil
3	Gujarat	750	Nil	Nil
4	Haryana	Nil	239	486
5	Karnataka	487	Nil	Nil
6	Nagaland	Nil	238	100
7	Odisha	487	Nil	Nil
8	Tamil Nadu	650	Nil	Nil
Total		2374	477	1173

Apart from the above 8 States, funds were released to Madhya Pradesh, Kerala & West Bengal during the period prior to 2013-14.

(प्रश्न 224)

श्री भरत सिंह (बलिया): माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या सभी राज्यों में राशन प्रणाली का डिजीटाइजेशन हो गया है? ... (व्यवधान) सरकार ने कितने राशन कार्डों को निरस्त किया है? ... (व्यवधान) इस संबंध में क्या प्रभावी निगरानी प्रक्रिया स्थापित की गयी है? ... (व्यवधान)

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान) : अध्यक्ष महोदय। ... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: आप इधर आकर उत्तर दीजिए। वे लोग आपको एलाउ नहीं करेंगे।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री सी॰आर॰चौधरी: परम सम्माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदया, माननीय सदस्य जी ने जो प्रश्न पूछा है, उनका मूल प्रश्न बहुत अच्छा था। ... (व्यवधान) मूल प्रश्न सम-सामयिक परिस्थिति के अनुसार है कि उपभोक्ताओं की क्या समस्याएं हैं, उपभोक्ताओं को जागरूक करने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जाने

चाहिए। ... (व्यवधान) इसके ऊपर मैं आपसे अर्ज करना चाहूंगा कि हमारे देश में एक प्रोग्रेसिव लैजिस्लैशन वर्ष 1986 में कंज्यूमर्स प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट लाया गया। ... (व्यवधान) उसके बाद उपभोक्ताओं के अवेयरनेस के लिए काफी काम हुए हैं। ... (व्यवधान)

माननीय सदस्य ने दूसरी जानकारी चाही है। ... (व्यवधान) उसके पहले मैं एक बात अर्ज करना चाहूंगा कि हमारे यहां 'जागे ग्राहक जागो' एक अभियान चलाया जा रहा है। ... (व्यवधान) उसके द्वारा पूरे देश के उपभोक्ताओं को जागरूक करने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। ... (व्यवधान) यदि ग्राहक जागरूक होगा तो वह मजबूत यानी एम्पार्वर्ड कंज्यूमर कहलाता है। ... (व्यवधान)

आपने जो अभी सप्लीमेंटरी क्वैश्चन पूछा है, यद्यपि यह इससे डायरेक्टली रिलेटेड नहीं है, लेकिन मैं आपसे अर्ज करना चाहूंगा कि सितम्बर, 2013 में देश में 'नेशनल फूड सिक्यूरिटी एक्ट (एनएफएसए)' लाया गया। ... (व्यवधान) उसके बाद डिजीटाइजेशन के ऊपर काम किया गया कि राशन कार्डों का डिजीटाइजेशन हो। ... (व्यवधान) सभी 36 राज्य और यूटीज़ में डिजीटाइजेशन का कार्य हुआ और 81 करोड़ से ज्यादा लोगों को एनएफएसए के तहत लाभ दिया जा रहा है। ... (व्यवधान) आपका स्पेसिफिक क्वैश्चन है कि कितने बोगस और फेक राशन कार्ड्स निकले, तो मैं माननीय सदस्य के संज्ञान में लाना चाहता हूं कि भारत के अंदर पूरे डिजीटाइजेशन के पश्चात् दो करोड़ सोलह लाख राशन कार्ड्स फेक, फर्जी, डुप्लीकेट पाए गए। ... (व्यवधान) इनमें से 13,000 करोड़ रुपए का डायवर्जन उन गरीब व्यक्तियों को मिलेगा, जो इसके हकदार हैं, यह मैं आपके नॉलेज में लाना चाहता हूं। ... (व्यवधान)

श्री भरत सिंह (बलिया): माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, मेरा सवाल है कि राशन प्रणाली को 'आधार' से जोड़कर सरकार ने कितनी बचत की है? ... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: आपका अवेयरनेस प्रोग्राम से संबंधित मूल प्रश्न है। उससे संबंधित प्रश्न पूछिए।

... (व्यवधान)

श्री भरत सिंह (बलिया): माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, मेरा दूसरा सवाल है कि देश में कितने राशन कार्ड्स 'आधार' से जुड़े हैं तथा बाकी राशन कार्डों को कब तक 'आधार' से जोड़े जाने की संभावना है एवं सरकार ने इसके लिए क्या समय-सीमा निर्धारित की है? ... (व्यवधान)

श्री सी०आर० चौधरी: महोदया, यह क्वैश्चन इससे डायरेक्टली रिलेटेड नहीं है। ... (व्यवधान) इसके बावजूद भी मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहूंगा कि हमारे यहां अभी तक 34 राज्यों व केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों में 60% के करीब राशन कार्ड्स 'आधार' से जोड़ दिए गए हैं। ... (व्यवधान)

श्री विजय कुमार हाँसदाक (राजमहल): स्पीकर महोदया, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं कि आपने मुझे प्रश्न पूछने का मौका दिया। ... (व्यवधान) कंज्यूमर अवेयरनेस की बात हो रही है और जागो ग्राहक जागे द्वारा हर स्टेट में प्रोग्राम्स चल रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान) लेकिन सिस्टम ऊपर से ही ठीक नहीं है। मैं इसलिए बोलना चाहूंगा, क्योंकि सदन में पहले भी बात उठी थी कि मानक आधार पर कई ऐसे उत्पाद जो कि कई देशों में बंद हैं, वे भारत में बिक रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान) क्या उन उत्पादों के बारे में सदन को बताया जाएगा और क्यों उनको बंद नहीं किया जा रहा है? ... (व्यवधान) लोगों के हित में मंत्री जी सदन को इसका जवाब देने की कृपा करें। ... (व्यवधान)

श्री सी०आर० चौधरी : अध्यक्ष महोदया, जागो ग्राहक जागो के मार्फत ग्राहकों को जागरूक करना है, उनको उनके अधिकारों के बारे में बताना है।...(व्यवधान) इस डिपार्टमेंट का मैन उद्देश्य यह है कि उपभोक्ता को सही समय पर, सही वस्तु, सही दाम पर मिले, इस बात को हम ट्राई करते हैं, इंश्योर करते हैं।...(व्यवधान) जहां तक आपने बताया कि कुछ ऐसे उत्पाद हैं। जो बताए जा रहे हैं कि भारत में आए हैं या आ रहे हैं और उन पर कहां तक कंट्रोल किया गया है तो मैं माननीय सदस्य से कहना चाहूंगा कि यदि आपको स्पेसिफिक पता हो कि ये उत्पाद आ रहे हैं, तो कृपया उनके बारे में बताने का कष्ट करें।...(व्यवधान) मैं सदन को यह कहूंगा कि यह प्रश्न बहुत अच्छा है।...(व्यवधान) इस क्वैश्चन में प्रश्न पूछने के बजाए मंत्रालय को सुझाव दें तो ज्यादा उचित होगा।...(व्यवधान) हम ग्राहकों के लिए क्या करना चाह रहें हैं, ग्राहकों के लिए आपके क्या सुझाव हैं?...(व्यवधान) How can we help the poor consumer is a big problem. उसके लिए बजाए प्रश्न पूछने के सुझाव देंगे तो ज्यादा उपयुक्त होगा।...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : प्रश्न काल है, प्रश्न ही पूछेंगे।

...(व्यवधान)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM) : Madam Speaker, the Minister has spoken in his reply about this *jago grahak jago* programme. But consumer awareness programmes do not seem to be reaching the *grahak*. If you look at milk adulteration, we have now got the National Survey of 2011 which found that over 60 per cent of the milk produced in India is adulterated eight per cent by detergents. Then we have urea, starch, formalin all of which are going into our milk. Milk is drunk by children, pregnant women, by elderly people. It is a matter of national concern. The Standing Committee related to this Ministry has also come up with a report but we have not seen any action by the Ministry. What measures have been taken to increase consumer awareness of milk adulteration, of the methods and mechanisms of complaint and redressal available to the consumer? And finally, what is the Government doing as recommended by the Standing Committee and by the Supreme Court to increase punishments for those who are guilty of adulteration of milk so that the consumer can be properly protected?

SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY : Madam Speaker, the question is rightly raised by the hon. Member. We have adopted a lot of measures to address the problems of the consumers. In the Twelfth Plan, Rs. 409.29 crore have been allocated to enlighten the consumers and push this whole programme forward. Similarly, we have the National Consumer Helpline in the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). On 12th of July, I and the hon. Minister went there and we have heard their problems also. On an average, three lakh complaints are coming in a year regarding this. The hon. Member has specifically asked about milk. He may be right. We are doing a lot of work on this through this helpline. We are requesting the State Governments also to control this. Milk adulteration is a problem, and we are trying to help out.

DR. ANUPAM HAZRA (BOLPUR) : Madam Speaker, regarding the consumer awareness programme I would like to ask the Minister whether there is any plan on the part of the Ministry to involve research scholars as well as the student fraternity.

It has been seen that whenever any programme has been taken care of by the students or the academicians, it has achieved a different kind of height. So, is there any future plan in the Ministry to specially involve social science students and research scholars to promote consumer awareness?

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान) : अध्यक्ष महोदया, जैसे माननीय सदस्य थर्सर साहब ने पूछा था, कन्यूमर प्रोटैक्शन एक्ट, 1986 का है। यह तीस साल पुराना हो गया है। ... (व्यवधान) हम एक नया कन्यूमर प्रोटैक्शन बिल, 2016 पार्लियामेंट में ऑलरेडी मूव कर चुके हैं ... (व्यवधान) उसमें इन सारी बातों का जिक्र है। उसमें कन्यूमर अर्थारिटी बनाने का भी प्रावधान है। ... (व्यवधान) हमारी एक जगह पर 14 कन्यूमर हैल्पलाइन्स हैं जिन्हें बढ़ाकर 60 करना चाहते हैं।

माननीय सदस्य ने स्कॉलर के संबंध में कहा। इसके अलावा हमारे पांच जगहों पर जो ग्राहक सुविधा केन्द्र थे, उन्हें बदलकर कन्यूमर हैल्पलाइन, जोनल करेंगे। ... (व्यवधान) असम में भी इसे करने जा रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान) हमारी क्लब आदि की जो पुरानी पद्धति थी, पहले जो अलग-अलग काम हो रहे थे, हमने उनके बदले नैशनल कन्यूमर हैल्पलाइन को मजबूत करने का निर्णय लिया है। ... (व्यवधान) दूसरा, जोनल कन्यूमर हैल्पलाइन बनाएंगे। ... (व्यवधान) तीसरा, अभी पता नहीं चलता कि कन्यूमर क्लब क्या है, उसमें बच्चे क्या करते हैं। ... (व्यवधान) इसके बदले हम स्कूल, कॉलेज में कन्यूमर के संबंध में कम्पीटिशन लाएंगे। हम आग्रह करेंगे कि कन्यूमर के संबंध में सिलेबस में भी जोड़ा जाए। कन्यूमर कोर्ट का निर्णय बहुत महत्वपूर्ण होता है। ... (व्यवधान) जैसे कुम्भ का मेला, उज्जैन का मेला, सोनपुर का मेला, इन जगहों पर पब्लिसिटी हो। ... (व्यवधान) हमारा एक व्यापक कार्यक्रम है। ... (व्यवधान) इस बार हमारा 80 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान था। हम भी चाहते हैं कि प्रावधान और बढ़े। इसके लिए जो भी आवश्यक कदम उठाने पड़ेंगे, हम उठाएंगे। ... (व्यवधान) देश की 125 करोड़ की आबादी कन्यूमर हैं। ... (व्यवधान) उनके हितों की रक्षा करना हमारा काम है। लेकिन अलग-अलग डिपार्टमेंट हैं, उनकी अलग-अलग अर्थारिटी हैं, अलग-अलग कानून बने हुए हैं। ... (व्यवधान) हम सबका समन्वय कर रहे हैं। ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Madam Speaker, awareness is being spread because of the *Jago Grahak Jago* programme but the process of redressal and awarding punishment to offenders is getting delayed. Though people nowadays approach consumer forums and consumer courts, delay in justice is still a cause of concern. Adulteration in food, adulteration in milk, adulteration in tea and coffee, adulteration in petrol and diesel, all these things are still happening. People are being duped as far as prices are concerned. When people approach consumer courts and consumer forums, the justice is getting delayed. What action is the hon. Minister going to take in this regard? Is he going to amend the law to make it more stringent and more consumer friendly?

श्री राम विलास पासवान: अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैंने कहा कि हम नया कन्यूमर बिल हाउस में ले आए हैं। उसमें ये सारे प्रावधान हैं। ... (व्यवधान) कन्यूमर कोर्ट तीन स्तर पर है। ... (व्यवधान) अभी उसे एक्सप्लेन करने का समय नहीं है। यह डिस्ट्रिक्ट, स्टेट और नैशनल लैवल पर है। हम इसे कैसे मजबूत करें। ... (व्यवधान) कन्यूमर को 90 दिन के अंदर जजमेंट, लाभ मिल जाए, यह प्रयास इस बिल में है।

(इति)

APPENDIX XII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 339
ANSWERED ON 9.08.2016

Complaints on Helpline

*339. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

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

- (a) whether the complaints against e-commerce companies form a large part of the total complaints received on the consumer helpline and if so, the number and details of such complaints received on the helpline during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government has directed the e-commerce companies to put in place a robust grievance redressal mechanism and if so, the details thereof and the response of the companies thereto;
- (c) whether the number of helplines for consumer redressal are proposed to be increased soon and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to ease the process of registering complaints on National Consumer Helpline(s) as well as to improve the functioning and performance of the Helpline(s); and
- (e) the steps being taken to put in place a mechanism to redress consumer grievances against e-commerce companies?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 339 FOR 09.08.2016 REGARDING COMPLAINTS HELPLINE.

(a) From April 2015 to March 2016, a total of 128790 complaints were received in the National Consumer helpline, out of which 23955 pertained to e-commerce

sector. The trend in the last three years, as reflected in the table below indicates that proportion of the e-commerce sector complaints has gone up from 8.19% in the financial year 2013-14 to 18.60% in the financial year 2015-16.

Year	Total No. of Complaints	e-commerce complaints	% of e-commerce complaints
April 2013-March 2014	58,472	4792	8.19
May 2014-March 2015	92770	13812	14.88
April 2015-March 2016	128790	23955	18.60
Total	280032	42559	

(b) On 12th July, 2016, a meeting was held by the Department of Consumer Affairs with around 130 companies including major e-commerce companies where the companies were impressed upon the need for early resolution of the consumer complaints and to partner with the National Consumer Helpline in resolution of complaints.

(c) & (d) It has been decided to increase the number of desks at the National Consumer Helpline from 14 to 60. Further, it has also been decided to open six Zonal Helplines at Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Jaipur, Kolkata and Patna.

A consumer can register a complaint in the National Consumer Helpline telephonically through the toll free number or through e-mail. To improve the functioning and performance of the National Consumer Helpline, new hardware and software have been provided.

(e) National Consumer Helpline is one of the means to redress grievances of the consumers through advice, guidance and information. The three tier system of Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions/Fora at District, State and National levels provide for a quasi-judicial system of resolving consumer disputes.

APPENDIX XIII
(*Vide* para 6 of the Report)

Extracts from Manual of Practice and Procedure in the Government of India,
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, New Delhi

Definition	<p>8.1 During the course of reply given to a question or a discussion, if a Minister gives an undertaking which involves further action on the part of the Government in reporting back to the House, it is called an 'assurance'. Standard list of such expressions which normally constitute assurances and as approved by the Committees on Government Assurances of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, is given at <i>Annex. 3</i>. As assurances are required to be implemented within a specified time limit, care should be taken by all concerned while drafting replies to the questions to restrict the use of these expressions only to those occasions when it is clearly intended to give an assurance in these terms.</p> <p>8.2 When an assurance is given by a Minister or when the Presiding Officer directs the Government to furnish information to the House, it is extracted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from the relevant proceedings and communicated to the department concerned normally within 10 working days of the date on which it is given.</p> <p>8.3.1 If the administrative department has any objection to treating such a statement as an assurance or finds that it would not be in the public interest to fulfil it, it may write to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat direct with a copy to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs within a week of the receipt of such communication for getting it deleted from the list of assurances. Such action will require prior approval of the Minister.</p> <p>8.3.2 Departments should make request for dropping of assurances immediately on receipt of statement of assurance from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and only in rare cases where they are fully convinced that the assurances could not be implemented under any circumstances and there is no option left with them but to make a request for dropping. Such requests should have the approval of their Minister and</p>
Deletion from the list of assurances	

	<p>this fact should be indicated in their communication containing the request. If such a request is made towards the end of the stipulated period of three months, then it should invariably be accompanied with the request for extension of time. The department should continue to seek extension of time till a decision of the Committee on Government Assurances is received by them. Copy of the above communications should be simultaneously endorsed to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.</p>
Time limit for fulfilling an assurance	<p>8.4.1 An assurance given in either House is required to be fulfilled within a period of three months from the date of the assurance. This time limit has to be strictly observed.</p>
Extension of time for fulfilling an assurance	<p>8.4.2 If the department finds that it is not possible to fulfil the assurance within the stipulated period of three months or within the period of extension already granted, it may seek further extension of time direct from the respective Committee on Government Assurances under intimation to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as soon as the need for such extension becomes apparent, indicating the reasons for delay and the probable additional time required. Such a communication should be issued with the approval of the Minister.</p>
Registers of assurances	<p>8.5.1 The particulars of every assurance will be entered by the Parliament Unit of the department concerned in a register as at <i>Annex. 4</i> after which the assurance will be passed on to the concerned section.</p> <p>8.5.2 Even ahead of the receipt of communication from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the section concerned should take prompt action to fulfil such assurances and keep a watch thereon in a register as at <i>Annex. 5</i>.</p> <p>8.5.3 The registers referred to in paras 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 will be maintained separately for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha assurances, entries therein being made session-wise.</p>
Role of Section Officer and Branch Officer	<p>8.6.1 The Section Officer incharge of the concerned section will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) scrutinise the registers once a week; (b) ensure that necessary follow-up action is taken without any delay whatsoever;

- (c) submit the registers to the branch officer every fortnight if the House concerned is in session and once a month otherwise, drawing his special attention to assurances which are not likely to be implemented within the period of three months; and
- (d) review of pending assurances should be undertaken periodically at the highest level in order to minimise the delay in implementing the assurances.

8.6.2 The branch officer will likewise keep his higher officer and Minister informed of the progress made in the implementation of assurances, drawing their special attention to the causes of delay.

Procedure for fulfilment of an assurance.

8.7.1 Every effort should be made to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed period. In case only part of the information is available and collection of the remaining information would involve considerable time, an implementation report containing the available information should be supplied to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in part scrutinize of the assurance, within the prescribed time limit. However, efforts should continue to be made for expeditious collection of the remaining information for complete implementation of the assurance at the earliest.

8.7.2 Information to be supplied in partial or complete fulfilment of an assurance should be approved by the Minister concerned and 15 copies thereof (bilingual) in the prescribed proforma as at Annex 6, together with its enclosures, along with one copy each in Hindi and English duly authenticated by the officer forwarding the implementation report, should be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. If, however, the information being furnished is in response to an assurance given in reply to a question etc., asked for by more than one member, an additional copy of the completed proforma (both in Hindi and English) should be furnished in respect of each additional member. A copy of this communication should be endorsed to the Parliament Unit for completing column 7 of its register.

8.7.3 The Implementation reports should be sent to the Ministry of the Parliamentary Affairs and not to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat. No advance copies of the implementation reports are to be endorsed to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat either.

Laying of the implementation report on the Table of the House.	<p>8.8 The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, after a scrutiny of the implementation report, will arrange to lay it on the Table of the House concerned. A copy of the statement, as laid on the Table, will be forwarded by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the member as well as the department concerned. The Parliament Unit of the department concerned and the concerned section will, on the basis of this statement, make a suitable entry in their registers.</p>
Obligation to lay a paper on the Table of the House <i>vis-a-vis</i> assurance on the same subject.	<p>8.9 Where there is an obligation to lay any paper (rule/order/ notification, etc.) on the Table of the House and for which an assurance has also been given, it will be laid on the Table, in the first instance, in fulfilment of the obligation; independent of the assurance given. After this is done, a report in formal implementation of the assurance indicating the date on which the paper was laid on the Table will be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the prescribed proforma (Annex 6) in the manner already described in para 8.7.2.</p>
Committees on Government Assurances LSR 323, 324 RSR 211-A.	<p>8.10 Each House of Parliament has a Committee on Government assurances nominated by the Speaker/Chairman. It scrutinized the implementation reports and the time taken in the scrutinized of Government assurances and focuses attention on the delays and other significant aspects, if any, pertaining to them. Instructions issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from time to time are to be followed strictly.</p>
Reports of the Committee on Government Assurances.	<p>8.11 The department will, in consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, scrutinize the reports of these two committees for remedial action wherever called for.</p>
Effect on assurances on dissolution of the Lok Sabha.	<p>8.12 On dissolution of the Lok Sabha, all assurance, promises or undertakings pending implementation are scrutinized by the new Committee on Government assurances for selection of such of them as are of considerable public importance. The Committee then submits a report to the Lok Sabha with a specific recommendation regarding the assurances to be dropped or retained for implementation by the Government.</p>

ANNEXURE I

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

(2016–2017)

(SIXTEENTH LOKSABHA)

SIXTH SITTING

(09.03.2017)

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1545 hours in Committee Room "C",
Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Prof. Sugata Bose
4. Shri Naran Bhai Kachhadia
5. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
6. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
7. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
8. Shri C.R. Patil

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R.S. Kambo — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri P.C. Tripathy — *Director*
3. Shri S.L. Singh — *Deputy Secretary*

WITNESSES

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs)

1. Shri Hem Kumar Pande — Secretary
2. Smt. Sangeeta Verma — Pr. Advisor
3. Smt. Madhulika P. Sukul — Additional Secretary
4. Shri P.V. Ramasastry — Joint Secretary
5. Shri Anil Bahuguna — Joint Secretary
6. Shri Awadesh K. Choudhary — Economic Advisor

7.	Shri Dharmesh Makwana	—	Director
8.	Shri Bani Brata Roy	—	Deputy Secretary
9.	Shri G.C. Rout	—	Deputy Secretary
10.	Shri Surendra Singh	—	Deputy Secretary
11.	Shri N. Natarajan	—	SSA, NIC

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

1.	Smt. Suman S. Bara	—	Deputy Secretary
2.	Shri Mukesh Kumar	—	Under Secretary

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee then paid tribute to Shri E. Ahamad, Member of Parliament and Member of the Committee, and Shri Rabi Ray, Ex-Speaker of Lok Sabha on their sad demise and stood in a silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

2. Thereafter, the Chairperson apprised the Members regarding the day's agenda.

(Thereafter the witnesses were called in)

3. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took oral evidence of the representatives regarding pending assurances from the 3rd Session of the 15th Lok Sabha to the 9th Session of the 16th Lok Sabha pertaining to the Department. At the outset, the Committee desired to know about the procedure being adopted for periodical review of pending Assurances at different levels with a view to fulfilling them within the time limit prescribed for the purpose. The Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs informed the Committee that fortnightly reviews are normally done at Senior Officers level and monthly regular reviews are also undertaken at Divisional Officers level. He also informed that a system already exists in the Ministry for monitoring of pending Assurances. The Committee reviewed 05 Assurances out of the 12 Assurances (Annexure—III) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) as mentioned below:—

(i) USQ No. 3803 dated 14.12.2009 regarding 'Import of Pulses'

The Committee were informed that the Assurance was transferred from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry but no records/papers were available in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. However, the Committee were assured that all necessary efforts will be taken to locate the records and collect the information to fulfil the Assurance at the earliest. The Committee expressed disappointment over the fact that the Assurance could not be implemented even after a delay of

more than seven years. The Committee also conveyed their displeasure over the fact that transfer of the Assurance was accepted by the Department in the year 2010 but at present no records are available with them. Drawing the attention of the representatives of the Department that the Assurance relates to compilation of certain basic data which is not a difficult task but the same has been pending since 2009, the Committee directed the Ministry to provide the details of the data at the earliest and fulfill the Assurance without any further delay.

(ii) General Discussion dated 25.02.2010 (Smt. Sushma Swaraj, M.P.) regarding 'Price Rise'

The Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs informed the Committee that it is not clear to them which part of the reply was treated as Assurance and requested for Committee's guidance in this regard. He also stated that the subject matter of the General Discussion *i.e.* Price Rise pertains to the Ministry of Finance and they monitor price rise of only 22 essential commodities. The Committee desired to know whether the Ministry of Finance have accepted the transfer of the Assurance. The Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs informed that no information in this regard is available with the Ministry. The Committee drew the attention of the representatives of the Department that the Assurance relates to providing details of price rise of essential commodities like rice, lacunae in export and import of some essential commodities as well as the details of policy provision in this regard. Pointing out that even after seven years the Assurance is still pending, the Committee expressed their serious concern that the Ministry has not made concerted efforts to collect the requisite information, due to which the Assurance continues to remain pending. The Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs submitted that the issue of imports pertains to the Department of Commerce and the requisite data/information will be collected from them and the Assurance will be implemented at the earliest. The Committee directed the Ministry to ensure implementation of the Assurance within a stipulated time period.

(iii) SQ No. 20 dated 13.03.2012 regarding 'Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies'

The Committee desired to know about the steps taken for fulfillment of the Assurance as the Ministry only has to ensure online centralization of information pertaining to consumer issues/disputes in Consumer Forums across the country which is not a difficult task. The Committee were informed that there are more than 600 Consumer Forums and the work regarding providing the information online is still under progress. The Committee were further informed that at present the work relating to hardware component is going on. The Committee directed the Ministry to expedite the whole process.

(iv) USQ No. 7398 dated 22.05.2012 regarding 'Consumer Protection Act'

The Assurance was regarding the proposal for amending the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to expand its coverage which will facilitate the consumers to make online complaints without having to go to the Consumer Forums. The Committee were informed that a new Bill regarding Consumer Protection has already been introduced in Parliament in 2015 and after being scrutinised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, the final Law will be framed during the ongoing Session. The Committee desired to know about the time by which the consumer complaints system would become online. The Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs informed that there was no provision of e-commerce or online commerce in the 1986 Act but the Ministry is in the process of bringing such a Bill in the current Session. The Committee desired that the same may be streamlined and expedited.

(v) USQ No. 5569 dated 30.04.2013 regarding 'Export of Agricultural Commodities'

The Assurance was regarding compilation of information on the details of agricultural commodities which are barred from export and futures trading and impact thereof on revenue earning of the country and the proposal to liberalise the foodgrain market in the country. The Committee desired to know whether the information has been collected or not. The Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs informed the Committee that the subject matter pertains to the Department of Economic Affairs and the Ministry have already requested for transfer of the Assurance but their acceptance is still awaited. The Committee observed that the task involves only compilation of some basic information which is not so difficult and can be done in few hours but the Assurance is still pending even after nearly four years. The Committee directed the representatives of the Department to transfer the Assurance to the Department of Economic Affairs, if it belongs to them, with the help of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and also obtain their acceptance in this regard. In case, the Department of Economic Affairs refuse to accept the transfer of Assurance, the Department of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, being the nodal Ministry whose Minister gave the relevant reply, should fulfill the Assurance in consultation with the Department of Economic Affairs at the earliest.

4. The Committee observed that the representatives of the Department of Consumer Affairs were unable to render clarifications with regard to the queries raised on certain Assurances. The Committee, therefore, directed the representatives to come fully prepared by having the requisite information on the Assurances under examination for discussion in the next meeting. The Committee also directed the Ministry to transfer the Assurances which are not related to them to the Ministries/Departments concerned in co-ordination with the Ministry

of Parliamentary Affairs and to fulfill the remaining Assurances pertaining to them at the earliest.

5. The Committee then decided to postpone the review of the remaining Assurances to the next sitting of the Committee with the representatives of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

6. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE II

MINUTES

FIFTH SITTING

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2017-2018) HELD ON
4TH APRIL, 2018 IN CHAIRPERSON'S CHAMBER,
ROOM NO. '133', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE,
NEW DELHI.**

The Committee sat from 1030 hours to 1100 hours on Wednesday, 4th April, 2018.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Naran Bhai Kachhadia
4. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
5. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
6. Shri A.T. Nana Patil

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri P.C. Tripathy — *Director*
3. Shri S.L. Singh — *Deputy Secretary*

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following four Draft Reports without any amendment:—

- (i) Draft 73rd Report regarding Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment);
- (ii) Draft 74th Report regarding Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs);

- (iii) Draft 75th Report regarding Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce); and
- (iv) Draft 76th Report regarding Review of Pending Assurances Pertaining to the Ministry of AYUSH.

3. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports during the current Session of the Lok Sabha.

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE III

STATEMENT OF PENDING ASSURANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS) (FROM 3RD SESSION OF 15TH LOK SABHA TO 9TH SESSION OF 16TH LOK SABHA)

S. No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1.	USQ No. 3803 dated 14.12.2009	Import of Pulses
2.	General Discussion dated 25.02.2010 (Smt. Sushma Swaraj, M.P.)	Price Rise
3.	SQ No. 20 dated 13.03.2012	Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies
4.	USQ No. 7398 dated 22.05.2012	Consumer Protection Act
5.	USQ No. 5569 dated 30.04.2013	Export of Agricultural Commodities
6.	SQ No. 222 dated 09.12.2014 (Shri Sharad Tripathi, M.P.)	Standards and Testing of Food Products
7.	USQ No. 5635 dated 28.04.2015	Consumer Rights
8.	USQ No. 2325 dated 04.08.2015	National Building Code
9.	SQ No. 222 dated 10.05.2016 (Shri Pralhad Joshi, M.P.)	Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities
10.	USQ No. 294 dated 19.07.2016	Complaints against Consumer Courts
11.	SQ No. 224 dated 02.08.2016 (Dr. Shashi Tharoor, M.P.)	Consumer Awareness
12.	SQ No. 339 dated 09.08.2016 (Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, M.P.)	Complaints on Helpline