

सांख्यिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) गुजरात राज्य सरकार ने सूचित किया है कि राज्य के शहरी क्षेत्रों में वर्ष 1991-92 तथा 1992-93 में क्रमशः 71 व 33 उपभोक्ता सहकारी समितियां पंजीकृत की गई थीं।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Ration cards issued to beneficiaries

3265. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 679 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 1993 and state :

(a) whether Government have any estimate about the number of Ration Cards issued so far to the beneficiaries in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) :

(a) and (b) Ration cards are issued by State Governments and UT Administrations, on application, to the consumer households in their respective States/UTs. As per information available, the number

of ration cards issued by the State Governments/UT Administrations in the country, as on 1-1-1992 is approximately 14.2 crores.

Adverse effects of import of edible oil on oilseed growers

3266. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 47,000 tonnes of edible oil has been imported from U.S.A. and about the same quantity is likely to be imported in the near future;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the import and release of edible oil in the market has led to crash in the prices of oil seeds;

(c) whether such steps are likely to affect adversely the interests of growers of oilseeds if so, whether Government have taken into consideration the interests of local growers; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to protect their interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) :

(a) A quantity of 47,000 MTs (approx.)

of Crude Degummed Soyabean Oil was received in September, 1992 as gift from US AID-PL-480 Title III agreement between Governments of USA and India in May, 1992. There is no proposal under consideration of Government for import of further quantity of Soyabean Oil for the US fiscal year 1993 under the aforesaid agreement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Considering the present demand of edible oil for the country to the tune of over 65 lakh MTs a year, the quantity of oil received as gift is quite negligible to have any adverse effect on the interests of growers of oilseeds.

(d) The Government has been keen to safeguard the interests of oilseed growers by implementing a number of schemes to increase yield and area of oilseeds production. The support prices of major edible oilseeds for Rabi Crop 1992-93 has been increased by 13% to 19.4%.

Amendments to consumer protection Act

3267. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
BAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister
of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER
AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had earlier assured that some major amendments to the Consumer Protection Act based on the recommendations of a working group constituted by the Central Consumer Protection Council were under-way;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(c) by when Government propose to amend the act as per the recommendations of the council ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CON-
SUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRI-
BUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE
OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A statement is annexed. (See below).

(c) Preparatory action for introduction of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill in the current Session of the Parliament is in final stages.

Statement

(b) A High Power Working Group was constituted to suggest suitable recommendations to the Government for making the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and MRTP Act, 1969 more effective. The recommendations of the Working Group are :—

(i) to enlarge the definition of "consumer" and "complaints" to cover those who purchase goods for self-employment and cases arising out of likely loss/injury to consumers;

(ii) to bring services in hospitals run by Government and local bodies and mandatory services provided by local bodies within the purview of the Act;

(iii) to allow filing of class action complaints on behalf of consumers;

(iv) to give additional powers to three tier redressal agencies such as power to issue cease and desist order, recall of defective and unsafe goods etc;