

(d) and (e) As per the recommendations of the State Food Minister's Conference held on 28.10.2004 all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been instructed to ensure that all families at the risk of hunger are covered by the System, the migrant labour or displaced persons or homeless population should be issued ration entitlement authority slips etc. Steps to improve the economic viability of ration shops, to facilitate and encourage Decentralized Procurement of foodgrains so as to make the PDS more cost effective and to cater to local tastes and better monitoring of the System were recommended. As per the same recommendations referred to above, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been advised that cooperatives of Women and Ex-servicemen should be given priority in the matter of allotting fair price shops licenses.

Consumer policy

898. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to introduce new consumer policy in view of the changing consumerism in the country; and

(b) if so, when it will be implemented?

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

(a) Yes Sir. The Central Government has constituted a Working group on 26.2.2004 under the Chairpersonship of Principal Secretary, Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection, Government of Tamil Nadu. The working group consists of Secretary-in-charge of Consumer Affairs, to the Government of States of Jammu & Kashmir, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and representatives of Voluntary Consumer Organisations. The working group has already started its consultations and it is yet to finalise its recommendations on National Consumer policy.

(b) After the receipt of recommendations of the working group, action, required for its implementation will be taken.