

(a) whether a Parliamentary Committee has suggested Government to amend the Bill for protecting the interests of consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2011 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 16.12.2011. This Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution. The Report was presented to Lok Sabha/ laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.12.2012. The salient features of the Recommendations of the said Report include, *inter-alia*, that following points:

- (i) Widening the definition of words such as 'complaint', 'defect' & 'deficiency in services';
- (ii) Widening scope of 'Unfair Trade Practices',
- (iii) Provision for review powers to State Commissions; and
- (iv) Empowering the State or the National Commission to entertain consumer organizations and other interested parties.

Adequacy of amount under Cash Transfer Scheme

2215. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state whether Government thinks that Rs. 600 in cash transfer scheme is sufficient for a family?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): There is no such scheme of the Government of India.

Vacancies in FCI godwons

2216. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of loading/unloading labour posts are lying vacant in various FCI godowns;

(b) the steps taken by FCI to fill-up such posts; and

(c) whether FCI is not giving weekly holidays, minimum wages and national festival holidays to all loading/unloading regular workers and contract labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes Sir, there are about 3800 vacancies of regular labour in various depots of FCI across the country as on 31.12.2012.

(b) FCI is making a review of its policy with regard to induction of labour against these vacancies.

(c) No, Sir. The Labourers employed under various labour systems in FCI are given paid weekly off as per the provisions of Minimum Wages Act. Besides, National festival holidays are also given to the labourers.

Monitoring of model code on affirmative action

2217. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has issued a policy for monitoring the steps taken by industry associations, which have already adopted a code of conduct on affirmative action to promote their members' companies, to adopt and implement an affirmative action policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of companies and industry associations in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) There is no provision in the Companies Act, 1956 on the subject. However, the issue is being monitored by a "Coordination Committee on Affirmative Action (CCAA) in the Private Sector" which is serviced by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. That Department has recently circulated a Proforma among industry Chambers to monitor the quarterly progress of action taken by the Chambers.

Corporate frauds

2218. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state: