

(c) Till date under the scheme of 'One Time Grant- 1995' Rs. 50 Lakh and Rs. 10 Lakh have been released to the Government of Assam for strengthening the Infrastructure of Assam State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (CDRC) and Guwahati District forum respectively.

(d) No such information/data are maintained in the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)/Government.

Cases before consumer forum of Goa

1638. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending before State and District Consumer fora in the State of Goa; and

(b) whether there are any vacancies either in the post of Chairman or members in the State and districts Consumer fora, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS): (a) As per information received from Goa State Commission 2371 cases have been filed before Goa State Commission since inception out of which 2321 cases have been disposed of and 50 cases are pending. Further 6452 cases have been filed before District Fora since inception out of which 5947 cases stand disposed. 505 cases are pending in District Consumer Fora.

(b) As per information received from Goa State Commission, there is no vacancy of President or Member at State/District Consumer Forum in Goa.

Restructuring PDS to implement National Food Security Scheme

1639. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps the Ministry proposes to take to restructure the PDS so as to effectively implement the National Food Security Scheme; and

(b) whether as one of the steps, Government shall allot all new fair price shops to women's self help groups, and 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) There is no scheme of the Government named National Food Security Scheme. The Government has however promulgated the National Food Security Ordinance (NSFO), 2013 on 5.7.2013. As regards reforms in Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the Ordinance provides that Central and State Governments shall endeavour to progressively undertake necessary reforms in the TPDS. These reforms *inter alia* include-

- (i) doorstep delivery of foodgrains of the TPDS outlets;
- (ii) application of information and communication technology tools including end-to-end computerisation in order to ensure transparent recording of transactions at all levels, and to prevent diversion;
- (iii) leveraging "aadhaar" for unique identification, with biometric information of entitled beneficiaries for proper targeting of benefits under this Ordinance.
- (iv) full transparency of records;
- (v) diversification of commodities distributed under the Public Distribution System over a period of time;
- (vi) support of local public distribution models and grains banks.

The Ordinance *inter-alia* also provides for preference to public institutions or public bodies such as Panchayats, self help groups, co-operatives, in licensing of fair prices shops and management of fair price shops by women or their collectives.