

(c) and (d) Presently there is no proposal for a separate regulatory framework for e-commerce under consideration. However, keeping in view the increased number of online fraud/cheating cases, the Government has also initiated steps for incorporating sufficient provisions for protection of consumers of online shopping/e-commerce under Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Creation of National Consumer Protection Authority

1468. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning radical overhaul of consumer laws in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government also proposes to create a National Consumer Protection Authority to protect consumers' rights, if so, to what extent the new Authority will be more effective to check consumer related disputes/affairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has held consultation with all stakeholders for a comprehensive amendment in Consumer Protection Act, 1986 for effective redressal of grievances of Consumers. The proposed amendments include introduction of provisions on chapter each on product liability, mediation and establishment of National Consumer Protection Authority. However no final view has been taken.

Food subsidy

1469. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of food subsidy disbursed during the last year had exceeded the Budget estimates, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government proposes to reduce the food subsidy, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) and (b) In the Budget Estimate for Financial Year 2013-14, an amount of ₹ 87,740.00 crore was allocated for food subsidy. However, in Revised Estimate it was enhanced to ₹ 89,740.02 crore. Accordingly, last year an amount of ₹ 89,740.02 crore was disbursed to Food Corporation of India and Decentralised Procuring (DCP) States as food subsidy. Hence there was no excess disbursement of food subsidy over and above the allocation made in budget. There is also no proposal for reduction in food subsidy.