

Import of urea under OGL

*125. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed or proposes to allow private companies to import urea freely under Open General Licence (OGL), if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether private companies would be allowed to sell urea in the market or they would be allowed to sell urea at the price fixed by Government, the details thereof; and

(c) the total foreign exchange likely to be saved by Government as a result of allowing free import of urea?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, question do not arise.

Pendency of consumer cases

†*126. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of consumer fora pending in District Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) whether Government has taken any fresh measures to reduce the pendency of cases in consumer fora; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides for a three tier quasi-judicial mechanism at the National, State and District levels, known as National Commission, State Commission and District Fora respectively, for redressal of consumer disputes. A consumer can file a complaint against defective goods, deficient services or any unfair trade practice in a Consumer Forum, depending on the jurisdiction of such Forum. Orders of the District Fora can be appealed against in the State Commission and that of the State Commission in the National Commission. Orders of the National Commission are appealable in the Supreme Court. As on 21.7.2015, in all 3,88,019 cases are pending in Consumer Courts. 10,101 cases are pending in National

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Commission, 94,033 in State Commissions and 2,83,885 in District Fora.

(b) and (c) The Government has recently taken the following measures to improve the functioning of Consumer Fora:

- (i) The State Governments have been requested to take action, well in advance, for filling up of vacancies of President and Members and also to maintain a panel of candidates for filling up of future vacancies so as to avoid delay in appointments.
- (ii) The National Commission is holding Circuit Benches from time to time.
- (iii) Financial assistance is being provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs for strengthening of infrastructure of Consumer Fora, including computerization and networking.
- (iv) A conference of the Presidents of the National Commission and State Commissions and Secretaries in-charge of Consumer Affairs of the State Governments/UTs was held on 29th May, 2015 in New Delhi on effective functioning of the consumer fora. The Conference noted that strengthening the infrastructure of Consumer Fora should be given priority by all the stakeholders, all the Consumer Fora need to use the Online Case Monitoring System application and the Consumer Fora were urged to adhere to the time limits prescribed for disposal of cases in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- (v) In pursuance of the Conference held on 29th May, 2015, the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has written to the Chief Ministers of the States to pay urgent attention to the problems being faced by the Consumer Fora with a view to improving their functioning.

**Compensation to drought and hailstorm affected farmers
of Vidarbha and Marathwada**

*127. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has appointed any task force or team to visit Vidarbha and Marathwada to evaluate the damage caused to farmers' crops in those areas due to drought, recent hailstorms and untimely rains;
- (b) if so, the details of report given by such team to the Centre along with the estimated damage caused to the crops;
- (c) whether Government is aware that compensation given to farmers is either