Members, administrative powers of Presidents of State Commissions and District Fora service conditions, minimum staff required, and a separate cadre for staff for the Consumer Fora.

Packaging of food items in non-standard denomination

406. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that market is flooded with confectionary, eatables and food items which have been packaged in non-standard denominations of weight or volume and besides that, such packages also carry schemes of extra or free contents in terms of percentage of content of the package;

(b) whether such non-standard denomination packages are permissible under Government's rules/guidelines, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would agree that such practices are misleading and consumer unfriendly; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to ensure that consumers are not misguided by resorting to such practices?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) Sir. Under Second Schedule of Rule (5) of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 there are only 19 commodities which are required to be packed in prescribed sizes. These 19 commodities are Baby Food, Weaning food, Biscuits, Bread including brown bread but excluding bun, un-canned packages of butter and margarine, cereals and pulses, coffee, tea, materials which may be constituted or reconstituted as beverages, edible oils vanaspati, ghee, butter oil, milk powder, non-soapy detergents (powder), Rice (powdered), flour, atta, rawa, and suji, salt, soaps (laundry soap, non-soapy detergent cakes/bars, toilet soap including all kinds of bath soap, cakes), aerated soft drinks, non-alcoholic beverages, mineral water and drinking water, cement in bags, paint varnish etc. [paint (other than paste paint or solid paint) varnish, varnish stains, enamels, Paste paint and solid paint, Base paint].

Apart from these 19 commodities all other commodities may be packed in any quantity as decided by the manufacturer/packer/importer. Further, under the said schedule it is also allowed for smaller quantities to pack in any quantity below a certain value. Also under sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the said rules value based packages from ₹ 1.00 to ₹ 10.00 are allowed irrespective of the quantity prescribed in the second schedule.

Further, under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 there is no provisions to give extra or free contents in terms of percentage of the content of the package. The penalty provisions are also made under section 36 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 for the violations of the provisions of Act and Rules. The enforcement of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and Rules made thereunder is done by the Legal Metrology Department of States/UTs.

Status of food processing industry in Maharashtra

407. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Food Processing Industry in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the existing Food Processing Units have the capacity to process fruits and vegetables available in the State; and

(c) if not, the details of specific steps taken to increase the processing capacity by establishing more food processing units in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) The status of Food Processing Industries in Maharashtra as per Annual Survey of Industries 2012-13 is as follows:

Parameters	Maharashtra	% to All India
No. of registered Food Processing Industries	3077	8.28
Fixed Capital (₹ in crore)	27577.08	17.36
Employment (Persons)	217124	12.85
Gross Value Added (₹ in crore)	10633.98	13.17

(b) No, Sir. As per a recent study by NABARD submitted to Government of Maharashtra, less than 1.2 per cent of fruits and vegetables are processed. Out of the total yield, 60 per cent vegetables and 70 per cent fruits are consumed fresh. The report further states that despite being the leading State in the Agro Industry, Maharashtra, with 1 lakh metric ton processing capacity, falls well below the required capacity by International Standards.

(c) Government has approved setting-up of 4 Mega Food Parks in Maharashtra out of which 2 are functional. It is expected that 25-30 Food Processing units would be set-up in functional Mega Food Parks. Government has also assisted 27 Cold Chain Projects in Maharashtra out of which 17 have been completed and others are in advanced stage of completion. Government has further assisted setting-