

Under-weighting of goods by retail shopkeepers

†1684. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retail shopkeepers are under-weighting goods sold by them to the consumers;

(b) whether Government has any mechanism to monitor them;

(c) if so, the number of shopkeepers against whom action has been taken for under-weighting goods from the financial year 2016-17 till date alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government will issue guidelines to the State Governments for safeguarding the interests of the consumers, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No specific complaint has been received by this department regarding retail shopkeepers under-weighting goods sold by them to the consumers. Complaints are being dealt and enquired by Legal Metrology Department of States/UTs Governments.

Under Section 30 and 36 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 penalty provisions exist for under-weighting goods. The enforcement of the same is done by Legal Metrology Departments of the State Governments, which take action as per the provisions of Law in case of any violation.

(c) and (d) As per the data received from States/UTs the total number of cases booked for violation of packaged commodities rules including under-weighting during 2016-17 were 89050 and during 2017-18 (upto 31.1.2018) were 55432. Advisories/guidelines are issued from time to time to the State Governments for safeguarding the interest of the consumers.

Consumer protection schemes

1685. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for more than 76 per cent decrease in total expenditure of Central sector projects on consumer protection in agriculture-related output markets, in 2017-18 compared to 2016-17;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.