

storage facilities, the Government implements the following schemes for construction of godowns and silos for storage of Central Pool Stocks in the country:

- (i) Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme: Under this Scheme, storage capacity is created by private parties, CWC and State Government Agencies for guaranteed hiring by FCI. A capacity of 149.89 LMT has been sanctioned/created as on 31.10.2019 (including 0.88 LMT in Andhra Pradesh).
- (ii) Central Sector Scheme (erstwhile Plan Scheme): This scheme is implemented predominantly in the North Eastern States. Government of India releases funds to FCI and also to the State Governments for construction of godowns. As on 31.10.2019, a total capacity of 2,33,600 MT has been completed by FCI and State Governments.
- (iii) Construction of Steel Silos: In addition to conventional godowns, Government of India has also approved an action plan for construction of steel silos in the country for a capacity of 100 LMT in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode for modernizing storage infrastructure and improving shelf life of stored foodgrains. Till date, location for silos with capacity of 82.75 LMT (82.50 LMT wheat and 0.25 LMT Rice) have been approved.

Disposal of cases by consumer courts

2959. SHRI RAKESH SINHA:
SHRI BINOY VISWAM:
SHRI K. J. ALPHONS:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of consumer courts in the country and the number of cases which have been disposed of by them in the last five years;
- (b) the number of cases which have been filed for violation of consumer's interests;
- (c) the number of persons who were penalised for violating the norms during last five years, year-wise; and
- (d) the reasons for low rate of disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) to (c) At

present, National Commission, 35 State Commissions and 650 District Consumer Forums are operational. As per the CONFONET portal, during last five years (2014-2018), 8,33,823 cases have been filed in these Consumer Fora for violation of consumer's interests out of which 546017 cases have been adjudicated as per the norms/Act.

(d) Vacant posts of President and Members in Consumer Commissions, shortage of support staff etc. are some of the reasons for low rate of disposal of consumer cases.

Mandatory hallmarking of gold

2960. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any action to make hallmarking of gold mandatory in the country, if so, the process which is to be followed for the seamless implementation of BIS hallmarking of gold mandatory; and

(b) the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is taking all necessary action for making of Hallmarking of Gold mandatory including stakeholders consultation, notifying Draft Quality Control Order on World Trade Organization (WTO) Website on 10th October, 2019; scheduling notification in respect of Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Artefacts on 15th January, 2020 making Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Artefacts mandatory in the country w.e.f. 15th January, 2021; ensuring adequate Assaying and Hallmarking (A&H) capacity. As on 31st October, 2019, 877 A&H Centres throughout India have been recognized by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

Quality of tap water being supplied in metro cities

2961. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: