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Home Family and Home Science - Laws for Consumer Protection, Standardization Marks, Packaging, Consumer Movement

Government has passed certain laws to protect our rights as consumer. Under these laws any consumer with a genuine grievance can file a formal complaint against a trader and take him to court.

Laws for Consumer Protection

- Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marketing) Act
- Drugs and Cosmetics Act
- Prevention of Food Adulteration Act
- Essential Commodities Act
- Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act
- Standards of weights and Measures Act
- Fruit Product Order (FPO)
- Consumer Protection Act (CPA/COPRA)
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act

Standardization Marks

A standardization mark is a mark given to a product which meets certain standards with respect to the quality of the product in terms of material used, method of manufacture, labelling, packing, sale and performance.



Packaging

Packaging refers to the container or wrapper in which a product is kept for marketing and sale. A good package helps you in many ways:

- It protects the product from damage, breakage and spoilage
- It helps in easy handling, transportation and storage of products
- It prevents the products from pilferage and adulteration, and
- Attractive packaging invites you to pick a product and buy it.

Consumer Movement

- A strong and active consumer movement is the most effective way of removing consumer problems.
- Consumer education helps people to develop a strong consumer movement.
- Consumer movement is a joint action of consumers against unfair practices of the trades and manufactures.
- **Importance of Consumer Movement**
 - A consumer movement helps consumers to
 - Be aware of their rights and responsibilities and use them regularly,
 - Take action and report cases of wrong practices to concerned authorities. It helps consumer to seek redressal and get the guilty punished,
 - Share information regarding new products, consumer laws and schemes beneficial to them, and
 - Represent the consumer interests to the Government.
- Presently there are about 600 such organisations in India. To motivate and strengthen the consumer movement the government has declared 15th of march as the Consumer Rights Day.