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

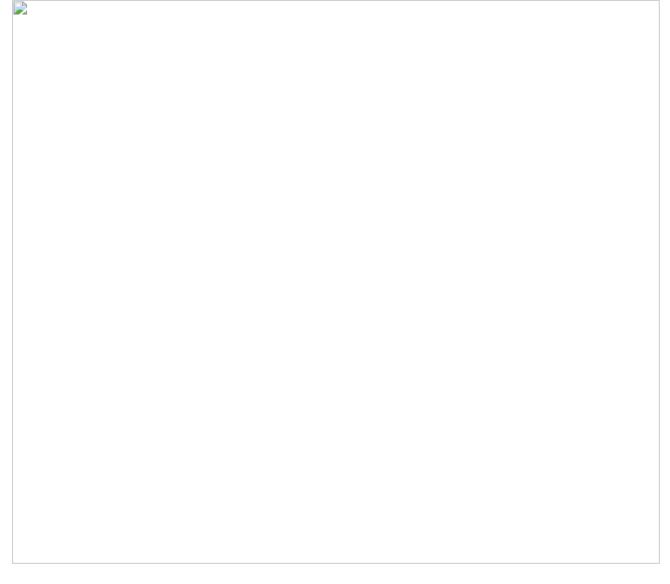
Government has passed certain laws to protect our rights as consumer. Under these laws any consumer with a genuine grievance can file a formal complaint against a trader and take him to court.

#### 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 15<sup>th</sup> of march as the Consumer Rights Day.