

BOOK REVIEWS

COMMENTARY ON THE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, 1986. By J.N. Barowalia. Delhi : Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., 1996. Pp. LXII + 1061, Rs. 625/-, ISBN 81-7534-016-9.

The book under review is a standard treatise on the very important and relevant subject concerning the protection of rights of the consumers in society. It is a slogan atleast, in Europe and America that in modern industrialised society it is the buyers who decide the market. The modern world may be influenced by the buyers but because of the media boom it is basically the sellers who provide the direction to the buyers. Therefore, when a seller is selling his goods and services he is aware of the goods and their quality. Moreover, with the competition there are so many choices to choose from that the buyers cannot be expected but to be in the trap of the sellers. Hence it is very important these days that if the sellers are not able to provide the proper goods or services or the professionals do not give services efficiently or perform professional duties negligently, that the consumers should have a quick remedy to claim damages which under the ordinary common law would require lengthy procedures to get the same. It is with the above object in view that now the consumers movement have gained importance and in order to protect the interests of consumers, the Consumers Protection Act, 1986 has been enacted.

The present commentary on the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 by J.N. Barowalia (hereinafter referred to as Barowalia's commentary) is an exhaustive treatise on the subject. The author has got the foreword from Hon'ble Justice A.M. Ahmadi, the Chief Justice of India. A small introduction has been given by Hon'ble Justice K. Jayachandera Reddy, the Chairman Law Commission of India. The reviewer's job has become easier because of the fact that the author has already got praiseworthy foreword and excellent introduction to the book which itself shows the authenticity, quality and the utility of the book. The author himself is in judicial service of Himachal Pradesh and as such has been able to write it with all the relevant cases and other materials necessary for writing a book on a subject like consumer protection.

The book has been written in a very simple language which should be useful to a starter in the legal profession. Apart from the text of the book which is complete in all respects for the subject of consumer protection, the book contains the Consumer Protection Rules framed by the Central Government as well as Rules framed by the State Governments in India which add to its comprehensiveness and utility. The book provides Model forms to be used at

various stages before the District Forum, State Commission as well as National Commission. Therefore, any person who is interested to get the redressal under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, would find it as a complete code to rely upon. To provide for the comparisons of the consumer protection, the author has also given the text of the U.K. Consumer Protection Act, 1987.

The author has very correctly stated that the book being a commentary is a systematic section-wise treatise with a complete review of the Act and it incorporates the latest statutory amendments and the law laid down by the Supreme Court of India. Comprehensive as it is, it also provides the decisions of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission as well as various State Commissions.

Indeed, the book would prove useful for the Bar, as well as the Bench. It would be handy both for the public and private undertakings. Students and scholars would definitely have comprehensive knowledge available on the subject. And this reviewer is sure that it will go in many future editions.

Barowalia's Commentary is a practitioners volume which has been priced at a reasonable price of Rs. 625 in these days of high prices. It must be kept in all Libraries. This reviewer congratulates the Universal Law Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd. for having beautifully published the book on the Consumer Protection which is so relevant in the present times.

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