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Consumer  
Protection Bill  
passed in LS

NEW DELHI, 31/07/19: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed a bill to set up a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to uphold and protect consumer rights and also to help them file class-action suits to sue a defendant as a group.

The Consumer Protection Bill seeks to replace the 33-year-old Consumer Protection Act and brings a new law to protect consumer interests over availing a range of services as well as considering new-age developments such as e-commerce, direct selling, and telemarketing.

The bill was approved by the Lok Sabha by a voice vote after Consumer Affairs Minister Ramvilas Paswan assured members that their concerns would be addressed when the rules are framed.

The bill has provisions to deal with class actions, product liability, misleading advertisements, liability for celebrity endorsements and others. The CCPA will have an investigating wing headed by a director-general with powers to search and seize.

AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi accused the government of succumbing to the "medical lobby" by exempting healthcare. Paswan said healthcare was exempted to protect the consumer from high medical costs.