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Parliament OKs bill to empower consumers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed a new bill to revamp the consumer protection regime in the country. The Consumer Protection Bill, which was earlier cleared by Lok Sabha, lays down the process for fast redressal of consumer disputes and strict penalties including jail term for adulteration and misleading advertisements by companies.

Celebrities endorsing misleading advertisements will face the risk of paying fine of up to Rs 10 lakh for first offence and can be banned for one year from endorsing any productor service. Subsequent offences will attract fine up to Rs 50 lakh and ban up to three years.

Responding to Samajwadi Party member Jaya Bachchan, who raised the issue of celebrity endorsers, Union consumer affairs minister Ram Vilas Paswan said earlier the parliamentary standing committee had recom-

Evictions of Illegal occupants now easier

With Rajya Sabha giving its approval, the Parliament on Tuesday paved the way for speedy evictions of unauthorised occupants of government residential accommodations. Under the current rules, the eviction proceedings take unusually long time. As per the bill, the estate officer won't be required to follow elaborate proceedings but he or she can initiate eviction proceedings. TNN

mended jail term. However, after an assessment of the best practices across the globe, it was found there was no provision of serious punishment for celebrities. "So we have made the change and have also specified in which cases, the endorsers and publisher/ advertiser won't be held liable," said Paswan.

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Full report: www.toi.in