ANNEXURE IX

RECOMMENDATIONS OF FOURTH WORKING GROUP ON LIBERALIZATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Chairman : Smt. H.K.Sawhney
Rapporteur : Dr.K.L. Madhok

The main recommendations of the Working Group are:

1. A Price Commission should be established to judge the reasonableness of price.
2. NGOs should lead a social movement for boycotting unscrupulous traders and manufacturers.
3. Quality in products and services in accordance with international standards may be ensured.
4. Whenever prices are increased in public utility services, pressure should be mounted by NGOs and consumers on government to justify such increase.
5. Consumer education should be made an integral part of school/college curriculum.
6. The packaged commodities should indicate cost price, selling price and expiry date.
7. In comparative testing of products, all brands should be tested.
8. Benefits of excise reductions have not been passed on to the consumers even after passing of number of months. Punitive action may be taken against the defaulters.
9. The practice of auction sales by the Government should be stopped as they help in exorbitant increase in price.
10. There is an apprehension that TNCs/MNCs might killed competition through cartelisation which in turn may induce the local indigenous manufacturers to produce products of lower quality to reduce prices. Ways and means have to
be devised for to curb this practices At the same time, protection for small producer should continue.

11. There can be open competition for luxury and capital intensive items. However, for necessary and labour intensive items, production should be protected and not exposed to competition.

12. There should be control on advertising specially by MNCs/ TNCs.

13. The Government should take positive role in promoting acceptance of UN guidelines on global business.


15. The NGOs should be empowered to inspect the records of the shopkeepers who announce clearance sale.

16. A legislation on the pattern of Freedom of Information Act of USA may be enacted in this country.

17. Public Utility Commission should be set up.