

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2176
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

MODIFICATIONS IN STANDARDS OF CHEMICALS

2176. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS: SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

Will the Minister of **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION** उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the legal and formal process for changing or modifying the existing standards for Chemicals/chemical compounds/products such as Boric Acid under the Bureau of Indian Standards;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Department of Consumer Affairs to strengthen standards for chemical compounds which benefits Indian conditions and businesses;
- (c) whether any scientific study has been conducted prior to changing the existing standards for chemicals such as Boric Acid to ascertain the safety aspects arising from such changes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is currently planning to remove the required range of sulphates and chloride additives from Boric Acid by bringing diluted standards or create another grade/sub-grade of technical grade Boric Acid with different parameters for sulphates and chlorides; and
- (f) if so, the impact of such a decision on human health, environment, national security as well as operational sustainability and safety of the end consumer industries?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) : Bureau of Indian Standards Rules, 2018 contains Rule 15 for Establishment of Indian Standards, Rule 22 for Procedure for establishment of Indian Standards and Rule 23 for the process to be followed for establishing/modifying the Indian Standards for any product(s), including chemicals, chemical compounds and products such as boric acid.

Rule No. 23 relates to review, modification, withdrawal of Indian standards – The Bureau reviews, periodically, at least once in five years, all established Indian standards to determine the need for revision, amendment, reaffirmation or withdrawal of such standards.

The Bureau has the power to provisionally amend, by notification, such of the provisions of an Indian Standard as in its view are necessary for expeditious fulfillment of any of the objectives of the Act and the amendments so made are regularized without further notification if the sectional committee concerned has on examination, approved the standards as so amended, within a period of six months from the date of the notification.

(b) : In order to strengthen Indian Standards, due consultation is carried out with domestic stakeholders in technical committees.

To ensure balanced representation in the Technical Committees, Bureau of Indian Standards makes efforts to ensure that relevant stakeholders representing various interests such as consumers, regulatory and other Government bodies, industry, testing laboratories or calibration laboratories, scientists, technologists are part of the Technical Committees and also the composition of such Committees are updated periodically. Various Stakeholder Sensitization Programmes have been conducted from time to time in order to generate awareness amongst the stakeholders.

(c) & (d) : **Rule 17 of BIS Rules 2018** states that every scientific study is to be considered by a Sectional committee duly constituted under the rule comprising of concerned officers of the Bureau, experts and all stakeholders. The relevant experts and stakeholders bring with them technical knowledge and know how required for revising/formulating various Standards.

For example, in case of Boric Acid Standard, IS 10116 – technical inputs from various Research Institutions (ICT Mumbai, CSMCRI), Academia (IIT Bombay) and also regulatory bodies (such as Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) were received and taken into consideration while taking up the revision of the Standard in 2015.

(e) & (f) : The BIS Technical Committee on the subject, after due discussions has decided to retain the range of chloride and sulphates as currently prescribed in the Boric Acid Standard (IS 10116). It also deliberates upon the results of technical studies undertaken by specialized R&D Institutes so as to further improve the standard from time to time.
