

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3010  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003  
LEGISLATION FOR COMPULSORY FOOD LABELLING  
BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government propose to introduce legislation for compulsory food labelling;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose thereof; and
- (c) if not, the action proposed by the Government to ensure that the food packets marketed by reputed companies are not harmful to the consumers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(c): The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 provide that every package of food shall carry a label, and unless otherwise provided in the rules, there shall inter-alia be specified on every label:

- (i) The name, trade name or description of food;
- (ii) Name of ingredients including displaying symbol of vegetarian food or non-veg food, colour, flavour, food additives, etc;
- (iii) Name and complete address of manufacturer or vendor, importer or packer as well as address of manufacturing unit;
- (iv) The net weight or number or measure of volume;
- (v) A distinctive batch number or lot number;
- (vi) The month and year of manufacture
- (vii) Expiry date, best before date;
- (viii) The purpose for irradiation and licence number in case of irradiated food;
- (ix) Declaration of admixture, deficiency, nutritional claim, warning on consumption of certain food, etc.