

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5157
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010
PACKAGED DRINKING WATER
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the packaged drinking water bottles/jars being used in the country are unhygienic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a study conducted by the Bureau of Indian Standards has revealed that most of the samples of packaged water bottles failed the drinking water standards set by it;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has made/proposes to make ISI certification mandatory for all the packaged water bottles/jars being sold in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the machinery being put in the place to enforce the said regulation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) in bottles/jars being sold with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Certification Mark (ISI Mark) are hygienic. They are manufactured in accordance with the relevant Indian Standard namely, IS 14543 under BIS Certification Marks Licences.

(c) & (d): Out of 3061 samples of Packaged Water tested by BIS during the period 01-12-2008 to 30-11-2009, 824 samples failed. BIS ensures the quality of Packaged Drinking Water manufactured by its licensees through a well defined certification scheme wherein visits are made to the licensees premises and samples are drawn from factory and market to check conformity of the product to the relevant Indian Standard. In cases of deviation from the prescribed standard, action is taken as per the provisions of the BIS Act, 1986 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder.

(e) & (f): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already brought Packaged Drinking Water under mandatory certification of BIS under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955. The implementation of the PFA Act and Rules is carried out by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations concerned who take action in cases of any violation of the PFA Rules, 1955.