

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6265
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010
FAKE MINERAL WATER COMPANIES
Chauhan Shri Sanjay Singh;Mishra Shri Mahabal

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

- (a) whether there are several reports of the functioning of fake mineral/ packaged drinking water companies in some metropolitan cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some mineral water/packaged drinking water bottles being sold presently carry no standardisation mark approved by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such mineral water/packaged drinking water companies found to be operating illegally in the country;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any quality test on water being sold by such companies; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

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): As and when information is received by Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS) that a manufacturing unit is producing Packaged Drinking Water /Packaged Natural Mineral Water with BIS Standard Mark without having a valid licence from BIS, discrete investigation is carried out and if information is found to be correct, search and seizure operation is organized for violation of provisions of BIS Act, 1986 and prosecution is launched in the court of law provided reasonable evidences are available during search and seizure. During the period of April 2009 to March 2010, a total of 53 search and seizure operations were conducted on the manufacturing units of Packaged Drinking Water/Packaged Natural Mineral Water operating without a valid licence from BIS.

(c) & (d): Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA)Rules, 1955, brought Packaged Drinking Water and Packaged Natural Mineral Water under mandatory certification vide Gazette Notifications GSR 760(E) and GSR 759(E) respectively dated 29-09-2000 which stipulate that no person shall manufacture, sell, or exhibit for sale Packaged Drinking Water and Packaged Natural Mineral Water except under Bureau of Indian standard Certification Mark. Implementation of the PFA Act and Rules framed thereunder is carried out by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations who take action in case of any violation of the PFA Rules, 1955. ? No data of violations of PFA Rules is maintained centrally.

(e) & (f): Information regarding action taken by State Governments/Union Territories Administration on infringement of PFA Rules is not available.