

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4254

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011

BIS GUIDELINES

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

- (a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued any guidelines on quality of food items in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received reports of non-compliance of the said guidelines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last two years and the current year, State-wise alongwith the action taken on these reports; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness regarding the said guidelines amongst the consumers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a & b) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated 460 Indian Standards for specifications for food items. These standards cover the sectors of sugar, apiary, stimulant foods, food additives, spices and condiments, processed fruits and vegetables, fisheries, oilseeds, drinks and carbonated beverages, food grains, starches, ready-to-eat foods, meat, dairy, specialized foods and drinking water.

(c & d) At present, there are 57 food items under BIS certification, including 9 items under mandatory certification (Ref. Annex-I).

During last two years and current year, i.e. year 2009, 2010 and Jan 2011 to November 2011, 1447 samples were found not conforming to the requirements of the relevant Indian Standards. The details are given in the Annex-II.

In all the above cases, actions have been taken as per laid down procedure under BIS Certification Marks Scheme.

(e) For promoting the concept of standardization, certification and quality consciousness among the consumers, `consumer`s awareness programmes` are organized on a regular basis.