

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3257
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
SALE OF SPURIOUS FOOD ITEMS
Bavalia Shri Kuvarjibhai Mohanbhai

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

- (a) whether recent raids conducted across the country have revealed the prevalence of several counterfeit/look alike/ spurious food items in the market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has initiated remedial steps to check the sale of such spurious products in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

- (a): Reports about spuriously ISI marked food items without a valid licence from BIS being sold in the market are received. There are also media reports about spurious milk and ghee in the market.
- (b): During 2008-09, Bureau of Indian Standards conducted 57 raids relating to food items like Packaged Drinking Water, Cattle feeds, Iodized salt, etc. Action as per the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 and the rules and regulations framed there under was taken against those found guilty.
- (c) to (e): BIS has an ongoing enforcement mechanism to check quality of ISI marked products, under which raids are done in the licensees` premises and samples are drawn from the factory and market for laboratory tests to ensure conformity of the products to the prescribed Indian Standards. Sale of spurious/adulterated food items also attract penalty under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, the implementation of which is with the States/UTs Governments which have been advised to keep a strict vigil on the quality of the products.