

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2207

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012

QUALITY OF SOFT/COLD DRINKS

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of sale/manufacturing of fake soft/cold drinks and also presence of residues of insecticides/ pesticides beyond the permissible level in branded soft/cold drinks in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with such cases reported and action taken by the Government during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of a study which states that certain brands of soft/cold drinks contain traces of alcohol;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to ensure availability of quality soft/cold drinks in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) : Random samples of various food articles including soft / cold drinks are drawn regularly by the Food Safety Officers of State/UT Governments and are tested in the Food Testing Laboratories as per the prescribed standards under Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA) and Regulations made thereunder. Action is taken in cases where samples do not conform to the prescribed standards.

(b): No separate data for soft/ cold drinks is maintained centrally. However, as per information made available by States/UTs, a statement indicating number of cases registered/ challaned and number of cases of convictions for food adulteration during 2009, 2010 and 2011-12 are annexed.

(c) to (e) : Though, no such study is available with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, the nodal authority set up for this purpose, as per the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additive) Regulations, 2011, liquor is not permitted to be added to the soft/cold drinks.

Any item, which is not prescribed in the regulation, is not allowed to be mixed/ added in the soft drinks. In case any violation is noticed, action is taken against the Food Business Operator (FBO) under Section 23 of FSS Act, 2006 for misbranding, adulteration etc. Penalties may extend up to a maximum of 10 lakhs rupees.