

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3226

ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012

QUALITY OF WATER PURIFIERS

Baitha Shri Kameshwar ;Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Upadhyay Seema;Verma Smt. Usha

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

- (a) whether membranes in Reverse Osmosis (RO) water purifiers and other such equipment used for making water potable in houses and offices filter absorb useful microbes along with the harmful ones;
- (b) if so, whether this makes the water harmful as minerals found in water do not reach the body and make people vulnerable to various diseases of the stomach;
- (c) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted/proposed any study to assess the quality of ROs and other such equipment being marketed in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water purifiers absorbs useful as well as harmful microbes.
- (b)& (c) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that there is no known scientific data is available in this regard.
- (d) & (e) National Institute of Virology conducted a study to evaluate the performance of domestic water purification units and tested eight purifiers. The result indicated that six of the eight purifiers tested did not conform to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or sometimes USEPA) standards. The Bureau of Biologic Standards looks into standardization, certification and quality of purifiers.