

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5573

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013

PACKAGED DRINKING WATER

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

- (a) the details of the standards fixed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for packaged drinking water;
- (b) whether the Government has received reports/complaints regarding illegal sale of packaged drinking water in violation of the quality norms and without any valid licences;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the number of such complaints received along with the steps taken thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether any mechanism is in place to check the quality of packaged drinking water; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of samples tested and the outcome thereof during the said period along with the corrective steps taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a): Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated following Indian Standards on Packaged Drinking Water:

# IS 14543:2004 Indian Standard – Packaged drinking water (other than natural mineral water) – Specification (First Revision)

# IS 14543: 2004 prescribes the requirements, methods of sampling and test for drinking water (other than natural mineral water) offered for sale in packaged form.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. Total 282 complaints have been received regarding illegal sale of packaged drinking water. Action has been taken by the concerned State / Union territory Governments, which includes suspension of manufacturing activities, seizure of the products and prosecution under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

(d) & (e): BIS ensures the quality of Packaged Drinking Water manufactured by its licensees through a well-defined certification scheme wherein regular surveillance is done of the licensees by factory inspections and drawing of samples from factory & market and their independent testing to check the conformity of the product to relevant Indian Standards. If such licensees are found not meeting the norms prescribed in the relevant Indian Standards, actions like warning, stop marking, deferment of renewal of licence, expiry of licence and cancellation of licence are taken. Such actions depend on the seriousness of default and/or frequency of recurrence of failures or unsatisfactory operation of the licence. The details of number of samples drawn and outcome thereof is enclosed at Appendix-I.