

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:391  
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2014  
PACKAGED DRINKING WATER  
Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy

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

- (a) whether a number of private companies have been given permission to set up packaged drinking water units;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the criteria/norms fixed for issuing the licences and the number of licences issued during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether instances of irregularities/complaints regarding the quality of packaged drinking water and matters connected with issuance of the licences have been reported, if so, the details thereof including the number of such cases reported during the said period and the action taken against erring companies, company-wise; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.391 FOR 05.08.2014 REGARDING PACKAGED DRINKING WATER.

(a) & (b) : Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) does not grant permission to set up units for production of packaged drinking water.

BIS grants licences under its Product Certification Scheme to units which comply with the requirements of relevant Indian Standard, IS 14543 for Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) and other terms and conditions of the product certification scheme. During the period 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 01-04-2014 to 30-06-2014, a total of 2719 number of licences to use the Standard Mark on PDW have been granted to manufacturers. Details are given in the Annexure-I, State/UT-wise.

(c) & (d) : The details of complaints received and the action taken thereafter are given in Annexure-II.

Before grant of BIS licence, the premises of the firm is inspected, to ascertain the availability of the necessary infrastructure for manufacturing Packaged Drinking Water conforming to the Indian Standard IS 14543. The requirements that are checked before the Grant of Licence include the following:

- # Availability of necessary manufacturing facility
- # Availability of adequate testing facility as per IS 14543
- # Satisfactory hygienic conditions, including medically fit personnel engaged by the firm for processing of water
- # Availability of Competent Quality Control Personnel
- # Conformity of product to the IS 14543
- # Adequate power and water supply
- # Acceptance of other terms and conditions of BIS licence like acceptance of Scheme of Testing & Inspection and Marking Fee, etc.

The general (shortcomings) observed during the preliminary inspection in some of the cases are given in Annexure-III. However, prior to the grant of licence, it is ensured that the firm has taken all necessary corrective action to rectify the shortcomings observed during the preliminary inspection.