

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:126  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014  
PACKAGED DRINKING WATER  
Deka Shri Ramen;Reddy Shri Midhun

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

- (a) whether sale of unlicensed and poor quality packaged/mineral water has been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such complaints received by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year along with the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether a large number of illegal bottling plants of packaged water which are not conforming to the standards prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) are operating in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard; and
- (e) the other steps taken to standardise production and ensure supply of good quality packaged water in the country?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.126 FOR 02.12.2014 REGARDING PACKAGED DRINKING WATER.

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. States and Union Territories have reported sale of unlicensed and poor quality packaged / mineral water. Out of total 36 States / UTs, information has been received from 19 States / UTs while the rest have not furnished the information. Out of the 19 such States, 11 have reported ?NIL? complaints and 8 States have reported a total of 747 complaints. States wise details of complaints received and action taken is enclosed as Annexure.

(d) to (e): Packaged drinking water and natural mineral water are both under the mandatory standards as per the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006. As per the FSS regulation 2011, under the Act ? No person shall manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale packaged drinking water and mineral water except under the Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark?.

To ensure the supply of quality packaged drinking water/ mineral water, the State enforcement authorities undertake regular enforcement activities. The provisions for penalties under the FSS Act are comprehensive and broad-based and include suspension of manufacturing activities, seizure of products, cancellation of licences, pecuniary penalties as well as imprisonment.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India also regularly writes letters to States / UTs for better implementation of the Act. It also conducts regular meetings of Central Advisory Committee (CAC). In the meetings of CAC, representatives of concerned Central Ministries including Bureau of Indian Standards( BIS) and State / UT Food Safety commissioners are members and matter related to enforcement of the Act are discussed for the effective implementation of the provision of the Act.