

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3406

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2014

ENERGY AND SOFT DRINKS

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

- (a) the details of existing laws/ regulations governing energy and soft drinks along with the quantity of caffeine and sugar/sweeteners permitted to be added therein;
- (b) the details of the cases of violation of the law/regulation reported, investigated in the country along with the action taken against the defaulters during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned against the ill-effects of high caffeine in energy drinks particularly consumed by children and young people and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether energy/soft drinks manufacturers are also reducing sugar quantities in their respective beverages in certain countries keeping in view the health of the younger generation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the precautionary measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

- (a): Regulation 2.10.6 (1) of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 prescribes the standards for carbonated water (soft drinks). However, it does not cover energy drinks.
- (b): No such reports of violation have been received from the State/UT Governments.
- (c): As per available information, a team of researchers from the World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe in the open-access journal *Frontiers in Public Health* has warned that increased consumption of energy drinks may pose danger to public health, especially among young people.
- (d) & (e): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not have any information about the energy/soft drinks manufacturers in other countries reducing the quantity of sugar in such drinks. Maximum permissible limit of amount of sugar for such drinks has not been prescribed in regulation 2.10.6 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.