

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4032
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04TH JANUARY, 2019
QUALITY OF PACKAGED DRINKING WATER**

**4032. DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:**

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

- (a) whether several companies are serving poor quality/unlicensed bottled drinking water/mineral water in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of complaints received during each of the last three years including the action taken by the Government in such cases;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any norms and developed any mechanism to monitor the quality of packaged drinking water and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the standardisation of production and supply of good quality bottled drinking water in the country?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): Yes. Instances of sale of packaged drinking water/mineral water not meeting the prescribed standards have come to the notice of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). As the responsibility of enforcement of Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 primarily lies with States/UTs. Commissioners of Food Safety of States/UTs have been advised by FSSAI from time to time to undertake strict enforcement activities against unauthorised manufacture and sale of packaged drinking water without FSSAI/BIS mark in States/UT Governments.

As per the information received from State/UT Governments (barring some), the details about number of samples of packaged drinking water/mineral water analysed, found non-conforming and action taken against defaulting Food Business Operators (FBOs) during last three years is as under:

Year	no. of samples analysed	no. of samples found non-confor-ming	no. of cases launched against	No. of convictions/penalties
2015-16	767	345	176	39/64
2016-17	697	224	131	33/40
2017-18	1123	496	246	97/135

(c) to (e): The standards of packaged drinking water (other than mineral water) are prescribed under sub-regulations 2.10.8 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. As per the sub-regulation 2.3.14 (17) of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011 “ *No person shall manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale packaged drinking water except under the Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark*”

Further, to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food, regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products including packaged drinking water are being carried out by the Officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs. In cases where the foods samples are found non-conforming, recourse is taken to penal provisions specified under FSS Act, 2006 which may extend to imprisonment for life.