

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5806  
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005  
AMENDMENT IN THE FOOD ADULTERATION ACT  
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act specifically states that it does not cover water and medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the rules framed for water by PFA are legal and binding;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the PFA Act in order to include and regulate water; and
- (f) if so, by when the Act is likely to be amended by the Government?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE ( SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) The definition of food under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 is as follows: -

‘Food’ means any article used as food or drink for human consumption other than drugs and water and includes :-

- (a) any article which ordinarily enters into, or is used in the composition or preparation of, human food,
- (b) any flavouring matter or condiments, and
- (c) any other article which the Central Government may having regard to its use, nature, substance or quality, declare by notification in the official Gazette, as food for the purposes of this Act;

(c) & (d) ‘Packaged drinking water’ has been declared as ‘food’ under Section 2 (v)(c) of PFA Act, 1954 vide notification GSR 202 (E) dated 21.3.2001. Thereafter, standards for packaged drinking water were prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955 vide notification GSR 760(E) dated 29.9.2000 which came into force on 29.9.2001. These standards are legal and binding.

(e) & (f) There is a proposal to amend the definition of food to include water in the definition of food under PFA Act, 1954. The matter is under consideration of GOM constituted for consideration of the Food Safety and Standards Bill.