

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5964
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
PACKED DRINKING WATER/MINERAL WATER
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

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

- (a) whether the water supply by the Delhi Municipal Corporation meets the B.I.S. specifications for packaged drinking water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the PFA has made rules for packaged drinking water;
- (e) if so, the details of the Codex Standards for packaged drinking water;
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the observance of these standards in the water supplied by the Delhi Municipal Corporation ;
- (g) whether packaged drinking water differs from natural mineral water; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) to (c) The definition of `food` under PFA Act, 1954 excludes `water`. Hence the water supplied through pipelines by Delhi Jal Board does not come under the purview of PFA Act, 1954.
- (d) Yes sir,
- (e) No packaged water shall contain substances or emit radioactivity in quantities that may be injurious to health. To this effect, all packaged water shall comply with the health-related requirements of the most recent `Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality` published by the World Health Organization.
- (f) The definition of `food` under PFA Act, 1954 excludes `water`. Hence the water supplied through pipelines by Delhi Jal Board does not come under the purview of PFA Act, 1954.
- (g) & (h) The standards for packaged drinking water and mineral water have been laid down under PFA Rules, 1955.

Packaged drinking water means water derived from any source of potable water which is subjected to treatments. Mineral water is obtained directly from natural or drilled sources from underground water bearing strata and not from public water supply. It is not subjected to any treatment other than filtration and decantation. It is packed close to the point of emergence of the source with particular hygienic precaution.