

Selling of inferior quality cold drink and water at stations

†270. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some vendors have been caught selling cold drinks and water of inferior quality by railway administration at New Delhi railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that the sale of adulterated cold drinks and non-branded water of inferior quality is going on in full swing with the collusion of railway staff and officers at various railway stations and the trains in the country; and

(d) if so, the effective steps to be taken by Government to protect the life of common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No such incident has come to notice of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Random checks are conducted by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to ensure the sale of unapproved and non branded and adulterated cold drinks and packaged drinking water does not take place in Railway Stations and trains. The Food and Health Inspectors of Zonal Railways regularly take samples for verification under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA).

Availability of iron ore for steel plants

271. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has established steel plants both in public and private sectors having capability of producing world class steel;

(b) whether sufficient quantity of iron ore is available on long term basis to meet the requirement of indigenous steel plants even after exports;

(c) if so, whether Government has reviewed its policy to export iron ores to put restriction on it for the sake of domestic demand of indigenous steel plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Major integrated steel units in the country, both in public and private sector, have the capability to produce steel, which is consistent with the international quality standards.

(b) The production, export and domestic consumption of iron ore in the country is given below:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Production (MT)	Export (MT)	Domestic Consumption (MT)
2004-05	146	78.14	55.348
2005-06	165	89.27	60.892
2006-07	187.7	93.79	68.504
2007-08	206.45	104.27	85
2008-09	227.64	103.95*	Not available

(Source: IBM, MMTC)* Estimated

The present quantity of iron ore availability in the country, after export, is catering to the needs of the domestic steel industry. A study report of National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi in the year 2006, has found that the useful life of high and medium grade iron ore at average consumption level (average of current and projected consumption levels) is only 19 years.

(c) and (d) While consideration National Mineral Policy, 2008, the Group of Ministers had decided that conservation of iron ore resources of the country is of paramount importance, however, the same may not be achieved by banning or capping the export of iron ore but by taking recourse to appropriate fiscal measures. Accordingly, export duty at different rates was imposed on iron ore from time to time. At present, the rates of duty on iron ore export is following:-

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| (i) Iron ore fines (all sorts) | — | NIL |
| (ii) Iron ore other than fines (including lumps and pellets) | — | 5% ad-valorem |

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a statement correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 2007 to Starred Question 228 regarding “GDP spending on Health”.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs Draft Notification