

- (viii) The Prerna strategy (Responsible Parenthood Practices) of Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) aims at promotion of delayed marriage (after the legal age) among girls, by rewarding and publically honouring the women who marry after the legal age and ensure proper spacing in the birth of their children.
- (ix) The Santushti strategy provides private sector gynaecologists and vasectomy surgeons an opportunity to conduct sterilization operations in Public Private Partnership (PPP).
- (x) A Call Centre operated by JSK on Reproductive, Family Planning and Child Health provides guidance/authentic information on issues related to reproductive and child health.

Patenting of medicine under free trade agreement

2699.SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the free trade agreement being negotiated with the European Union; and

(b) if so, what are the articles of agreement pertaining to patents of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, The issues flagged by the European Union for discussion in the draft chapter on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) include proposals for patent linkage, patent term extension and access to medicine. The chapter on IPRs in the BTIA is at a draft stage which gives the preliminary position of each of the parties and is only a consultative draft which will be subject to stakeholder consultations.

Formulation of standards for energy drinks

2700.SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

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

(a) whether Government has constituted an Expert Committee to formulate standards for energy drinks in the country;

(b) if so, the composition of said Committee along with term of reference thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Committee will finalize the standards for energy drinks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) Yes. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has informed that it has constituted an Expert Group for the purpose of formulating the standards of the energy drinks. A details containing the composition and terms of reference of the said Expert Group is enclosed as Statement (See below).

(c) Setting of standards involve, *inter alia*, consultation with stakeholders, risk assessment etc. It is, therefore, not feasible to indicate a definite time frame.

Statement

Composition and terms of reference of the Expert Group

The composition of Expert Group

1. Dr. Amarinder Singh Bawa, Director, Defence Food Research Laboratory, Mysore.
2. Director, National Institute Nutrition, Hyderabad.
3. Director, Central Food Toxicological Research Institute, Mysore.
4. Dr. Mukul Das, Dy. Director, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow.
5. Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, Maharashtra.
6. Commissioner, Food Safety, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
7. Dr. Joseph I Lewis, Head, R&D, M/s. Marico Ltd., Mumbai.

Terms of reference

- To examine the scientific literature and global position on use of caffeine and non-carbonated beverages and their labelling.
- To recommend the limit of caffeine in energy drinks and non-carbonated beverages under Food Regulations.
- To suggest suitable safety and products standards of Energy Drink.

Rajiv Gandhi Aarogyasri 108

2701.DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: