

Evaluation of water purifier at factory level

2238. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study by the National Institute of Virology (NIV) that conducts research on communicable diseases and viruses, evaluate that of 8 domestic water purifier brands only two could completely remove the viruses;

(b) if so, whether the Bureau of India Standards (BIS) has taken note of it and the action taken on the report;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to formulate a national policy for evaluation of water purifiers by regulatory authorities at the factory level to ensure the quality of domestic water purifiers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the actions taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) ICMR's National Institute of Virology, Pune, conducted a study to evaluate the performance of eight commonly used domestic water purification units in terms of removal of contaminating Hepatitis E virus. The standards laid down by the US Environmental Protection Agency were used in the study. Significant (four log) reductions in virus titers were considered as significant. Results indicate that 2/8 water filtration units tested, were effective in completely removing the virus.

(b) to (d) Bureau of Indian Standards has established the following two Indian Standards:

- i. IS 14724:1999 'Specification for Ultra-violet Disinfection System' This standard covers systems employing UV radiation for disinfection of water. The system will give water free from water borne pathogenic bacteria. The system will help in removing only the suspended matter and bacteria and will not filter any dissolved solid or chemicals.
- ii. IS 7402:1986 'Specification for Filters for Drinking Water Purposes' This standard prescribes the requirements and methods of sampling and test for filter candles as well as filter containers for drinking water purposes. The filter will help in removing only the suspended matter and bacteria and will not filter any dissolved solid or chemicals.