

Overcharging of mineral water

1602. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

SHRI SALIM ANSARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the hotels/restaurants in Delhi are resorting to unfair trade practices by overcharging for mineral water served during lunch/dinner;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details of cases of overcharging of mineral water and other carbonated drinks that have been noticed during the last one year with action taken against restaurant owners; and

(d) whether Government would educate people for not paying extra amount on MRPs and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. However, it is submitted that in the Civil Writ Petition No. 6517/03 of the Federation of Hotels and Restaurants Association of India & others Vs Union of India & others the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi hold that "charging prices for mineral water in excess of MRP printed on the packaging, during the service of customers in hotels and restaurants does not violate any of the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act as this does not constitute a sale or transfer of these commodities by the hotelier or restaurateur to its customers...". Hence, scope for legal action against such practice is limited.

(d) The Government runs several media campaigns to make consumers aware about their rights and also about the MRP and its implications through Press, T.V., Radio and other platforms.

Subsidy on pulses and edible oils

†1603. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to implement the scheme of providing subsidy on pulses and edible oils through public distribution system;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.