

Illegal water bottling units in and around Delhi

†3072. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that over ten thousand illegal water bottling units are active in Delhi and its adjoining cities;
- (b) whether the bottled water supplied by these illegal units is potable;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor, and the action taken by Government against these illegal units; and
- (d) the source of supply of water to these illegal units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a) to (d) Only 9 cases of illegal water bottling units have been reported by Haryana and no such cases have been reported by Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Bottled water supplied by these units was not found potable. Action has been initiated by the Haryana Government. The implementation and enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 rests with State/ UT Governments. Penal provisions are provided in FSS Act, 2006 and States/UTs take action accordingly.

Improvement in PDS

†3073. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether improving the Public Distribution System (PDS) is one of Government's key priorities;
- (b) if so, the corrective measures taken so far by Government in order to improve the public distribution system;
- (c) whether Government has taken any concrete initiative in the last six months to stop black marketing of foodgrains in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB DADARAO DANVE): (a)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to (d) Strengthening and streamlining of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a continuous endeavour. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding meetings, conferences, etc. wherein State/UT Governments are requested for review of lists of beneficiaries, improving the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPSs), greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc.

The National Food Security Act, 2013, notified on 10.09.2013, also contains measures for reforms in TPDS, to be undertaken progressively by the Central and State/UT Governments. These reforms *inter alia* include door-step delivery of foodgrains at the FPS, application of information and communication technology tools including end to end computerisation, preference to public institutions/bodies in licensing of FPSs, etc.

Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 notified by the Government mandates the State and UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. PDS (Control) Order, 2001 also empowers State/UT Governments to take punitive action under clauses 8 & 9 in case of contravention of relevant provisions of the Order. If any person contravenes any provisions of this Order under clauses 3,4,6 and 7, he shall be liable to punishment under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act. Action in cases of blackmarketing of foodgrains is also taken by States/UTs under the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

As per information received from the States/UTs, 124 detentions have been made in 2014 (upto 30.11.2014) in the cases of blackmarketing of essential commodities. State of Tamil Nadu has made 107 detentions while State of Gujarat has made 17.

Clarification regarding use of Satyamev Jayate

3074.SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Registrar of Societies, Government of NCT of Delhi has sought re-clarification last month from the Ministry regarding the use of name Satyamev Jayate as a title of an NGO to be registered in Delhi;
- (b) whether the Ministry has provided the re-clarification, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?