

Permission to use Bromate in packaged drinking water

1553. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the FSSAI has permitted limited amounts of Bromate in packaged drinking water despite it being potentially highly hazardous to humans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) to (c) Bromate occurs naturally in water. Bromate once formed cannot be removed entirely but its formulation can be controlled by various control options. After detailed scientific deliberations and considering it as a controlling measure, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has specified a restrictive maximum limit of Bromates (as BO_3) at 0.01 mg/l in line with World Health Organization guidelines on drinking water.

Doctors in the country

1554. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of medical graduates/ PGs in the country as on 1 April, 2016 or any recent date;
- (b) the number of doctors working in Government hospitals or in other Government institutions;
- (c) the number of doctors in private service;
- (d) Government's present target so far as doctors proportion is concerned; and
- (e) the States which have not achieved it at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) As per information provided by Medical Council of India, there are a total 9,88,922 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Council/ Medical Council of India as on 30th June, 2016.

- (b) Health being a State subject, provision of healthcare facilities falls under the jurisdiction of respective State Governments and no such data with regard to number