

Differences on safety standards on packaged drinking water

1930. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are differences between the Ministry and the Bureau of Indian Standards on the safety standards specifications on packaged drinking water; and

(b) if so, the steps the Ministry is taking to raise the safety standards to the EU norms?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Director General of Bureau of Indian Standards has requested this Minister to amend the specifications of Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water in line with amendment carried out in BIS specifications, which are as per EU Norms. The Bureau of Indian Standards have proposed as follows:

- (i) To revise the methods of analysis to use internationally Established Test Methods which could defect proposed residue limits.
- (ii) To prescribe the maximum residue limits of Pesticides in Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral as follows:—
 - (a) Pesticide residues considered individually-0.0001 mg/litre
 - (b) total pesticide residues-0.0005 mg/litre.
- (iii) The manufacturers shall produce a No Objection Certificate from the Central Govt./State Govt. Ground Water Authority for obtaining BIS Certificate.

Since Packaged Drinking Water is under Compulsory Certification Scheme of BIS, there is a necessity to harmonise the standards prescribed under PFA Rules with the standards amended by BIS. Accordingly, a draft notification for inviting comments from Public to amend the standards of Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water under PFA Rules, 1955 as recommended by BIS, has been issued *vide* GSR No. 111(E) dated 18.2.2003, 30 days have been given for receiving Public comments.