

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2705
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2017

NEW RULES FOR PACKAGED FOOD PRODUCTS

2705. SHRI DEVAJIBHAI G. FATEPARA: SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that as per new rules made by the Government use by date should be mentioned on packaged items to inform consumers if any item is unfit for consumption;
- (b) whether it is also true that all packaged items should have e-code for net quantity;
- (c) whether it is also true that e-commerce companies are required to mention MRP, brand, manufacturer and seller and dealer information and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also true that the Government plans to increase the numeral size on wrappers by at least 5% to 10 % to aid in reading; and
- (e) if so, the action proposed against the violators against the said rules?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) : Yes Madam. The Government has amended the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 vide G.S.R. 629(E) dated 23 June, 2017 and incorporated a new provision under Rule 6(1) as follows:

“6(1)(da) If a package contains a commodity which may become unfit for human consumption after a period of time, the ‘best before or use by the date, month and year’ shall also be mentioned on the label:

Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply if a provision in this regard is made in any other law.”

(b) : No Madam. The facility of ‘e-code’ for net quantity assurance of the commodity and other required declarations is proposed to be given to the industries to ensure that the commodity is correct in quantity and declarations, which is optional and not mandatory.

(c) : Yes Madam. The e-commerce companies are required to ensure that the mandatory declarations are displayed on the digital and electronic network used for e-commerce transactions viz. Name and address of the manufacturer/ packer/ Importer, Name of the Commodity, Net quantity, Retail sale price in the form MRP (inclusive of all taxes) and consumer care details.

(d) : Yes Madam. The size of the numerals printed on the pre-packaged commodities have been increased vide this new amendment in the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011. The said amendment will come into force w.e.f. 1st January, 2018 to enhance consumer protection.

(e) : For the violation of these Rules, the penalty provisions are made under section 36 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.
