

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5062
ANSWERED ON 27TH MARCH, 2018

SOFT DRINKS MANUFACTURED BY MNCs

5062. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has cleared the licence for a certain US based MNC to launch a new category of soft drink to match the local products in popularity and price and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the packaged aerated drinks market in India involves a turnover of Rs. 22000 crore per year, of which the locally manufactured Indian soft drinks sector comprises 12% and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether of late plenty of questions have been raised about the adverse effect of consumption of soft drinks manufactured and sold in India by the MNCs and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether a strong criticism is emanating from certain quarters that the soft drinks manufactured and sold in India by the MNCs contain injurious chemicals and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the MNC soft drinks products are subjected to laboratory tests by the Government in order to rule out the presence of injurious chemicals and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SADHAVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) to (e):Licenses under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 are being issued to Food Business Operators to carry out or commence any food business for those food products whose standards are prescribed under FSS Act, Rules and Regulations made thereunder or the products which are specifically approved by Food Authority.

Standards of Carbonated water have been prescribed under sub-regulation of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. Permissible limits of contaminants such as lead, copper, arsenic etc., for soft drink and carbonated water are prescribed in the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011. All manufacturers of soft drinks /carbonated water have to meet the prescribed standards and are responsible for compliance of the same.

Further, in terms of conditions of license under Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, Food Business Operators shall ensure testing of relevant chemical and/or microbiological contaminants in food products in accordance with these regulations as frequently as required on basis of historical data and risk assessment to ensure production and delivery of safe food through their own or National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited/ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) notified labs at least once in six months.

Also, to ensure compliance of the prescribed standards, random samples of food items including soft drinks are drawn by the State Food Safety Officers for testing. In cases where samples are found to be non-conforming to the prescribed standards and norms under Food Safety and Standards Act and Rules and Regulations made thereunder, recourse is taken to the penal provisions as provided in the FSS Act, 2006. No separate information is available from States/UTs about samples of soft drinks testing and found non-conforming

As per Annual Survey of Industries, 2014-15, conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the output of the registered food processing industries (units/factories) in the sector of Manufacture of soft drinks; production of mineral waters and other bottled waters including manufacture of aerated drinks was estimated at Rs.26314.52 crores in 2014-15.
