BENEFICIARIES UNDER NIKSHAY POSHAN YOJANA

†153. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:
SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU:
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:
SHRI AJAY KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beneficiaries under Nikshay Poshan Yojana in Maharashtra including Amravati district, district-wise;
(b) whether there is shortage of manpower and equipments in State Food Laboratories in the country;
(c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;
(d) whether it is a fact that many bottled soft drinks like Sting, Red Bull have excessive caffeine content which is harmful to health;
(e) if so, the details thereof along with the number of samples of such energy drinks and bottled soft drinks which have been tested; and
(f) the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the business owners of the said substandard food samples in the country, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra, Bihar and Haryana?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a): The total number of beneficiaries under Nikshay Poshan Yojana district-wise in Maharashtra including Amravati district is at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): The implementation and enforcement of provisions under Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 primarily lies with the State/UT Governments. However, to address the shortage of manpower and equipment in the State Food Laboratories (SFL), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is implementing a Central Sector Scheme
named “Strengthening of Food Testing system in the Country including provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs (SOFTeL)” under which State Food Testing Laboratories (SFTLs) are provided funds for setting up lab with basic lab equipment, installation of high end equipment and establishing microbiology lab. FSSAI has also provided grants to States for National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation, Certified Reference Materials, Consumables and for hiring contractual manpower. To extend reach of basic testing facilities even in remote areas, FSSAI has provided mobile food testing labs called Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs). During the period from 2016-17 to 2022-23, FSSAI has released total funds of Rs.613.67 crores under SoFTeL to the stakeholders (State/SFTLs/Referral laboratory).

Further, FSSAI is providing the grant to the State Food Testing Laboratories (SFTLs) under Annual Work Plan through Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the States and FSSAI w.e.f 2020-21 onwards. Support towards laboratory equipment and manpower requirement is provided to SFTLs against their vacant post or as per the requirement of the SFTLs on the merit of the case. Training to the technical manpower and other handholding is also done for the improvement in the functioning of the SFTLs.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has informed it is implementing a scheme namely Food Safety & Quality Assurance Infrastructure under Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) to assist the Setting-up/Up-gradation of Food Testing Laboratories in the country including in the State of Maharashtra (in Amravati and other Districts).

(d) to (f): As per the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation 2011, the cafffeinated beverages shall contain not less than 145 mg per litre and not more than 300 mg pr litre. Moreover, label of such products shall contain a declaration "consume not more than 500 ml per day” that represents the per day maximum quantity of consumption. All Food Business Operators has to comply with these regulations.

FSSAI through State/UTs and its regional offices conduct surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products to check compliance of the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder. In cases where the food samples including Energy drinks & bottled soft drinks are found to be non-conforming including sub-standard, penal action are initiated against the defaulting Food Business Operators as per provisions of FSS Act, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

Based on the information received from the states/UTs, state-wise (including Maharashtra, Bihar and Haryana) details of various kinds of food samples (including Energy drinks & bottled soft drinks) analyzed, found non-conforming and action taken during 2022-23 is at Annexure-II.
## Maharashtra total beneficiary under Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (April 2018 to December 2023) as on 1st January 2024

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Annexure-II

State-wise (including Maharashtra, Bihar and Haryana) details of various kinds of food samples (including Energy drinks & bottled soft drinks) analyzed, found non-conforming and action taken during 2022-23

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