Crackdown on packaged drinking water units
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Jalandhar: A team of the Health Department today cracked down on four units selling packaged drinking water in the district.

While the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) licence of one of the units was cancelled by the department, notices were issued to three of them. As many as 300 cartons of water from one of the units were also destroyed and at another, 238 cartons of packaged drinking water were seized.

In total, there are six packaged drinking water units in the district.

The team, headed by Designated Food Safety Officer Dr Balwinder Singh, along with food safety officers Rashu Mahajan and Divya Bhagat, inspected these four units running in the district, namely Aqua Time Beverages Lohian Khas, Jalandhar, MU Enterprises at Zinda Road, AD Enterprises Rama Mandi, Village Suchi Pind, Amritdhara Beverages, New Prithvi Nagar.

Notices have been issued to Aqua Time Beverages, MU Enterprises and AD Enterprises, while the BIS licence of Amritdhara Beverages was cancelled.

At the Aqua Time Beverages Lohian Khas, Jalandhar which had been producing the brand Aqua Time, the factory was found operational. Nearly 240 cartons (24 X 200 ml) were sealed and cups were seized. While the food business operator of the factory did not have a mandatory BIS and FSSAI licence, a notice was issued to the factory to immediately stop the production of the packaged drinking water.

In the MU Enterprises, Zinda Road, Jalandhar, the brand Euro Pearl was being manufactured. While the factory was found operational during the raid, samples were taken for analysis. The food business operator did not have a mandatory BIS and FSSAI licence. A notice was issued to the owner to produce the same within two days. AD Enterprises Rama Mandi, Suchi Pind village in Jalandhar was making the brand Aqua Dip. While the factory was not in operation (packaged drinking water was also not found on spot), a notice was issued for not manufacturing the packaged drinking water without BIS and FSSAI licence.

Amritdhara Beverages, New Prithivi Nagar, Hoshiarpur Road, which was producing the brand Amritdhara Golden Moments, the factory was not in operation. The BIS licence of
the factory was cancelled. As many as 300 cartons (24 x 200 ml), of cups of Golden Moments and Amritdhara were destroyed on the spot by the Health Department.

DHO Dr Balwinder Singh said, “We have collected samples from various units and we shall be writing to the food commissioner to give us the power to close the units running without BIS licence. In the coming days, we shall also be conducting inspections at other units on the periphery. The power to seal the units the BIS licence of which has been cancelled, also lies only with the commissioner. But we will seek the permission to close all illegal units.”