

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3940  
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2011  
REDUCTION IN EXCISE DUTY  
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to abolish or reduce Central Excise Duty / Sales Tax such as bangles, bichhua (ornament), bindi, vermilion on items used in marriages particularly in backward and rural areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many suggestions/requests have been received by the Government in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof as on date; and
- (e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

- (a) : Currently items such as kumkum, including sticker kumkum, sindur, alta or mahavar are already fully exempted from excise duty. Glass bangles do not attract any excise duty. Unbranded ornaments of gold and silver also do not attract any excise duty. As regards Sales Tax, the subject matter of taxation lies with State Legislatures as per Entry 54 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.
- (b) : Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) : No, Sir. No such suggestion or request has been received in the recent past.
- (d) & (e): Does not arise in view of (c) above