

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4228

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012

PURCHASE OF SUB STANDARD GIFTS

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Jindal Shri Naveen;Lingam Shri P.

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been irregularities in the protocol division of his Ministry involving buying of sub-standard gifts at inflated costs for presenting to foreign dignitaries by the Head of the State, Prime Minister and high-ranking officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b) It came to the notice of the Ministry in May 2011 that some of the gifts being procured by the Protocol Division of the Ministry were not of the desired quality and specification.

(c) & (d) A preliminary inquiry was conducted into the matter by the Ministry which could not establish prima facie any involvement or complicity of officials of the Ministry. A detailed investigation into the matter has thereafter been entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is ongoing.