

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:769
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012
MANDATORY HALLMARKING OF GOLD
Sugumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been reports of adulteration in gold jewellery including 22 carat gold sold across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to make it mandatory for jewellers to have their gold certified;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote hallmarking of gold jewellery to protect the interests of the consumers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): No such report has been received. However, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) had conducted a market survey in 16 cities in the year 2006 to ascertain the purity of gold jewellery being sold by the jewellers. Out of total 162 samples taken, 146 samples were found having lesser purity than declared, with highest shortfall as 44.66% and average shortfall as 13.5%.

(c) to (e): There is a proposal to amend BIS Act, 1986 so as to incorporate an enabling clause for considering mandatory certification for gold jewellery. BIS Amendment Bill, 2012 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 3-05-2012, Hon'ble Speaker has referred the said Bill to the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on 25th May, 2012.