

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5723
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013
SURVEY OF JEWELLERY SHOPS
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has conducted survey of the small and big jewellery outlets in various parts of the country during the last one year to check quality, carat, purity, hallmarking etc. of the jewellery sold by them;
- (b) if so, the details and the findings thereof;
- (c) whether any action has been taken against those outlets which were found cheating the consumers and also to make hallmarking mandatory across the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Madam. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has carried out market surveillance of Jewellers licensed by BIS under Hallmarking Scheme, during which samples were collected and tested to check conformity to the respective Indian Standards.
- (b) During the year 2012-13 (up to 28/2/2013), 320 samples of hallmarked articles were drawn during market survey. 69 samples failed to meet the requirements of the relevant Indian Standards.
- (c) & (d) When a sample fails, it is communicated to the licensed jeweller asking him to take corrective actions and the corrective actions as taken are verified by BIS. Amendment of Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 is a precondition for enabling Government to make hallmarking mandatory. The Bureau of Indian Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2012 is now under examination of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.