Government of India Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2084 TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2018

CHECKING OF FRAUDS IN GOLD JEWELLERS

2084. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT: (OIH)

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether putting a check on the fraudulent practices being done with regard to the purity of gold jewellery is under active consideration of the Government;
- (b) if so, whether any steps have been taken in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d) : Yes Madam, to protect the consumer interest with respect to the purity of hallmarked jewellery, market surveillance of registered jewellers is being regularly carried out during which samples of hallmarked jewellery are drawn from the BIS registered jewellers. These samples of hallmarked jewellery are tested at BIS referral assay laboratory at Chennai and Central Laboratory, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad against the marked purity on the article. Monitoring of performance of the Assaying & Hallmarking (A&H) Centres is also regularly done by carrying out surprise surveillance audits of the A&H Centre.

Based on the result of the audits and samples drawn (if shortage of purity is observed) appropriate action against A&H Centre and Jeweller is taken which is as under:

- (i) Against A&H Centre: imposition of suspension of hallmarking/, de-recognition of the A&H Centre
- (ii) Against registered jeweller: cancellation of the registration and payment of compensation by the jeweller.

The details with respect to surveillance of registered jewellers and A&H Centres carried out during the last two years and current year up to 25 June 2018 are as under:

	Market Surveillance of		Monitoring of performance of the A&H Centres		
	registered Jewellers				
Year	Sample	Jeweller	Audits of	A&H Centre	A&H Centre
	Drawn for	registrations	A&H Centre	put under	derecognized
	testing	cancelled		Stop Marking	
2016-17	3063	49	126	85	72
2017-18	4438	80	336	87	38
2018-19 (Up to 25 th June 18)	503	9	25	24	3