

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1605
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
SALE OF POOR QUALITY GOODS
Singh Dr. Ajit Kumar

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

- (a) whether various sub-standard products like electrical wires, bottled water, baby milk powder, various food colours and jewellery have entered major markets particularly in Delhi;
- (b) if so, whether any survey has been made by the Government to assess the gravity of the problem besides identifying those involved in the illegal trade;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such illegal trade?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) : The Bureau of Indian Standards is responsible for the quality of products that are bearing the Standard Mark of the Bureau for which the Bureau grants licences to manufacturers. The Bureau monitors the quality of these products through regular factory inspections and by testing of samples drawn from the factory and market. In case there is any complaint regarding the quality of products bearing the Standard Mark from the consumers, the Bureau records the complaints and investigates both at the complainant's end as well as the manufacturer's end. In case after examination and testing of the product, it is established that the complaint is genuine, the Bureau organizes redressal of the complaint and also takes action against the licensee which can be a warning or imposition of Stop Marking Orders or even cancellation of licence.

(b) to (d): BIS is not aware of supply of sub-standard materials in the markets that are not bearing the Standard Mark and does not conduct surveys in this regard. However, when it was launching the Hallmarking Scheme for Gold jewellery, it conducted a survey for purity of gold jewellery in 8 major cities of India including Delhi associating consumer activists. Out of 120 samples taken from the jewellers in 8 cities, only 14 were found to be passing the purity as claimed. Accordingly, BIS had filed cases against some jewellers under Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act.