

**Fake products**

1846. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NCR has emerged as an illegal manufacturing hub producing counterfeit goods from consumer goods to automobiles and medicines;

(b) whether sale of product flaunting fake labels would severely hit the export and famous brand would loose its market share;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to the quantum of amount produced due to sale of duplicate products and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would enact any legislation and set up a joint mechanism to tackle the problem?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN):** (a) and (b) No such information is available with the Department of Consumer Affairs.

(c) the Department of Consumer Affairs has not commissioned any study in this regard.

(d) The provisions in the existing legislations such as the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Trade Marks Act, 1999, the Copyrights Act, 1957, the Patents Act, 1970, the Customs Act, 1962, the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 etc. can be invoked to tackle the problem.

**Hall-marking of gold items**

1847. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether hall-marking of gold items has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the locations for hall-marking in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the consumer interest and market demand, Hall-marking of Gold Jewellery was started in the year April, 2000 on a voluntary basis under Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act, 1986. The scheme is aimed at providing third party assurance to consumers on the purity of gold for its fineness. The scheme is operated through network of Regional and Branch Offices of BIS all over the country. Since launch of the scheme, over 2438 gold jewellers have taken licence from BIS, and so far, over 162 lakh jewellery articles have been hall-marked. 40 hall-marking centres have been recognized for this purpose.

(c) There are 8 hall-marking centres in Tamil Nadu. The location of these centres is given below:

- (i) Bharat Assayers, Chennai,
- (ii) Kesar Hall-marking Centre, Chennai,
- (iii) Shree Vishnu Assayers Pvt. Ltd., Chennai,
- (iv) Shanti Vijay Testings, Chennai,
- (v) Covai Hall-mark Company, Coimbatore,
- (vi) Sukraa Hall-marking Centre, Coimbatore,
- (vii) Krishna Hall-marking Centre Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore,
- (viii) Emerald Testings (India) Pvt.Ltd., Coimbatore.

#### **Allocation of kerosene and wheat to Kerala**

1848. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether quantity of kerosene allotted to PDS to Kerala had been reduced compared to the year 2002-03 and wheat allotted to PDS had been reduced drastically for 2006-07;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether the competent authority of Kerala represented for increasing the quantity of kerosene and wheat; and