

distribution to BPL families @ 1kg per month upto 30.6.2012 and scheme for subsidized imported edible oils with subsidy of Rs. 15/- kg for distribution to ration card holders @ 1litre per ration card per month upto 30.9.2012.

Mandatory Hallmarking

†1595. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has approved the proposal for making hallmarking of gold mandatory;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to amend the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act; and
- (d) the number along with the names of jewellerys made of gold and silver which fall under the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No Sir. A bill to amend BIS Act so as to incorporate an enabling clause for considering mandatory hallmarking for gold jewellery has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 03-05-2012. The Hon'ble Speaker has referred the said Bill to the Standing Committee for Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on 25th May, 2012. The matter is under consideration of the Standing Committee.

(d) As on 30 June 2012, 1337 lakh gold articles & 1.69 lakh silver articles have been hallmarked. The name of jewellers or specific jewellerys can be known only after the act is amended and mandatory hallmarking comes into force.

Hiring of private godowns

†1596. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether FCI has invited tenders for hiring private godowns constructed using 70-80 year old technology for the ten years at various locations identified by it and through Central/State Warehousing Corporations;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has received any detailed letter in this regard;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon;

(d) whether Government would consider to hire godowns with new technology in place of godowns with conventional obsolete technology and if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) FCI has ensured construction of modern scientific godowns through private entrepreneurs, for hiring for ten years under Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee Scheme and taken steps for creation of modern storage facilities like silos. All FCI godowns are constructed scientifically as per BIS code and CPWD specifications.

(e) Does not arise.

Food subsidy

†1597. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the benefit of food subsidy given by Government is being taken by the major biscuit and bread manufacturers and wheat processing mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that these major consumers are being provided food produce at a subsidized rate than the economic cost of Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Government releases wheat for bulk sale under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS)

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