

using technical tools available in the market. Further, social networking sites with encrypted content are used to transmit the pornographic content which makes filtering difficult as the data is encrypted. Therefore, the tools provide filtering to a limited extent only. The tools, in the process may also filter genuine content and degrade the performance of systems.

To address the issues effectively, Government is in regular touch with Internet Service Providers to upgrade their infrastructure and technology to effectively address the shortcomings with regard to identifying and blocking encrypted websites / URLs. Further, Social Networking sites are monitored by the security agencies in order to check / remove objectionable contents from the web sites in consultation with Indian Computer Emergency Team (CERT-In) in accordance with the provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000. Government is in regular touch with Social Networking sites, having their offices in India, to disable objectionable contents at the source from their websites. Government has also initiated Research and Development programmes to deal with technical issues relating to encrypted communications from the point of monitoring and blocking.

#### **Selling of impure gold jewellery**

\*146. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether jewellers, including licensed hallmarked gold jewellers, are selling impure gold jewellery at the rate of pure gold jewellery and fleecing consumers;
- (b) if so, the details of measures taken by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to safeguard the interests of consumers;
- (c) the details of jewellers booked for selling impure gold jewellery during the last three years and the action taken against each of them; and
- (d) the steps taken to check the sale of sub-standard gold jewellery?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The most recent survey (2006) conducted by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in 16 cities indicated that 90% of the samples of non-hallmarked jewellery had failed showing 13.5% average shortage of declared purity.

Sampling of Hallmarked Jewellery, which is a small part of the total jewellery sold in India, was undertaken by BIS in the months of February and March, 2015. Results

from 193 samples indicate that 145 samples have passed the purity test while 48 samples have shown 0.2% average shortage of marked purity.

(b) BIS has notified a quality assurance standard (IS:1417) for gold jewellery. This standard is only a voluntary standard. Therefore, it is not incumbent on jewellers to sell gold jewellery that adheres to this standard.

To encourage jewellers to sell gold jewellery that adheres to IS:1417, BIS introduced the hallmarking scheme in 2000 under which gold jewellers are encouraged to take license from BIS. This license allows jewellers to use the hallmark which is a certificate of the purity of the gold. As on 31/3/2015, 14,031 jewellers have obtained license to sell hallmarked jewellery. However, a gold jeweller who is a licensee under the scheme can display and sell both hallmarked as well as non-hallmarked jewellery as this is only a voluntary scheme. Under the scheme, a licensed jeweller is required to get his jewellery duly tested and certified in the approved Hallmarking and Assaying Centre before marking the hallmark on the jewellery. As on 31/3/2015, BIS has approved 331 Hallmarking and Assaying Centres across the country. Under the Hallmarking Scheme there is a provision for imposition of penalty on the Hallmarking and Assaying Centre and payment of compensation to the consumer by the jeweller, in case the purity of hallmarked jewellery sold is found less than the marked purity.

(c) and (d) Under the Hallmarking Scheme, no jeweller has been booked for selling impure gold hallmarked jewellery during the last three years. Both the Department of Consumer Affairs, under its “Jago Grahak Jago” campaign, as well as the BIS undertake publicity campaign including advertisements in print and electronic media to create awareness amongst consumers on the importance of buying hallmarked jewellery.

#### **Effect of electromagnetic radiation from cellphone towers**

\*147. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given its approval to conduct research on effects of electromagnetic radiation from cellphone towers in the country on human and animal health, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that similar researches were conducted by Tata Memorial Centre and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR); and

(c) if so, whether it is not duplicity, if so, the reasons for such a study?