

Mandatory testing of purity of gold

2646. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sale of non-Hallmarked gold/ornaments is banned in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government would make testing machine for checking the purity of gold, mandatory in jewellery shops;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are any measures to fix the gold rate as one nation, one rate in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (f) Presently sale of both hallmarked as well as non-hallmarked gold and silver ornament is permitted in the country. However, the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 has enabling provisions for making hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory by the Central Government.

Gold is widely traded in local markets across the country. At present, there are no specific measures or mechanism to fix a single daily gold price in the country. The price generally depends on import price, basic customs duty, tax and logistics cost, purity etc. and vary with location.

Implementation of Food Security Act in Kerala

2647. SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) across the country, including the State of Kerala; and

(b) the details of budget allocated, sanctioned and spent for various schemes under NFSA in the State of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) National