

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1856
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010
STANDARDS FOR GOLD AND JEWELLERY
Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has set up any purity standards for ornamental gold and silver in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a large number of jewellers violate such purity standards and adulterate gold with other materials in various parts of the country;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has any mechanism to check such violation by jewellers;
- (e) if so, the number of jewellers against whom the Government has taken action during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (f) the names of the jewellers authorised to sell Hall Marked jewellery in various States?

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 (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated Indian Standard IS 1417:1999 'Gold and gold alloys, jewellery/ Artifacts-Fineness and Marking-Specification' for nine grades of gold used in the manufacture of jewellery/ artifacts and IS 2112:2003, 'Silver and Silver Alloys, Jewellery/ Artifacts- Fineness and Marking- Specification' for three grades of fine silver, and five grades of silver alloys used in the manufacture of jewellery/ artifacts.

(c): Market surveys conducted in the year 2001-02 and 2006 on non-hallmarked jewellery had revealed that jewellery articles with lesser purity than the declared value were being sold in the market.

(d): BIS Hallmarking Scheme for gold and silver jewellery articles ensures that purity of gold/silver in the articles is of the declared quality. However, BIS has no control over the quality/purity of articles being manufactured/sold by jewellers who are not its licensees.

(e): Details of action taken by BIS against its licensee jewellers for violation of provisions of Gold Hallmarking Scheme. State-wise and year-wise for last three years and the current year are given in Annexure.

(f): There are 7,380 gold jewelers & 513 silver jewelers who are BIS licensees under its voluntary hallmarking Scheme. Details of such jewellers are available on the BIS website i.e. www.bis.org.in.