

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5441  
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011  
HALLMARKING CENTRES  
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) the total number of hallmarking centres located in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government proposes to set up more hallmarking centres in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government proposes to adopt mandatory hallmarking of precious metal articles to protect the interests of the consumers in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a): As on date 160 Assaying and Hallmarking Centres recognized by Bureau of Indian Standards are operational in the country and the State-wise details are as under:-

SI. No.	State	Total
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1	Karnataka	13
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2	Kerala	25
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3	Andhra Pradesh	9
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4	Tamil Nadu	29
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5	Gujarat	13
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6	Maharashtra	23
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7 Goa 1

8 West Bengal 10

9 Orissa 2

10 Jharkhand 1

11 Bihar 1

12 New Delhi 16

13 Madhya Pradesh 3

14 Rajasthan 4

15 Uttar Pradesh 4

16 Chattisgarh 1

17 Punjab 2

18 Chandigarh 1

19 Haryana 1

20 J&K 1

(b) & (c): Assaying and Hallmarking centres are set up by entrepreneurs, based on their commercial judgment. With a view to encourage entrepreneurs to set up more such centres in different parts of the country, the Government is operating a scheme under which financial assistance of 15% of the cost of machinery and equipment is extended. The assistance for setting up of such centres in North -Eastern Region, Jammu and Kashmir, Hiraachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and rural areas in the country is 30%. The financial assistance has been increased from December, 2010 to as under:-

**Area To Private entrepreneurs To Public Sector Undertakings**

NE Region/J&K/HP/ Uttarakhand/ Rural areas	50%	75%
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Other places	30%	50%
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(d) to (f): Yes, Madam. The Government proposes to adopt mandatory hallmarking by introducing an enabling provision in the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 through an amendment to the Act.