

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:79

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2011

STANDARDS FOR GOLD AND SILVER JEWELLERY

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

- (a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has set up any purity standards for ornamental gold and silver in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are complaints of violation of such purity standards by jewellers in various parts of the country;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has any mechanism to check such violations by jewellers;
- (e) if so, the number of jewellers against whom the Government has taken action during each of the last one year and the current year in various parts of the country, State-wise; and
- (f) the names of the jewellers authorised to sell Hall-marked jewellery in various States?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) : BIS has formulated IS 1417:1999 `Gold and gold alloys, jewellery/ Artefacts-Fineness and Marking-Specification`. It specifies nine grades of gold, used in the manufacture of jewellery/ artefacts of gold, based on their gold content. These grades are as follows:

Grade	Fineness	Carat
	Min.	

Fine gold 999	-
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Standard gold 995	-
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958.3	958	23
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916.6	916	22
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875	875	21
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750 750 18

708 708 17

585 585 14

375 375 9

BIS has also formulated IS 2112:2003, `Silver and Silver Alloys, Jewellery/ Artefacts-Fineness and Marking- Specification` , which specifies three grades of fine silver, and five grades of silver alloys used in the manufacture of jewellery/ artefacts of silver based on their silver content. These grades are as follows:

Grade	Fineness
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9999	999.9
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9995	Fine silver	999.5
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999	999.0
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970	970.0
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925	925.0
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900	silver alloys	900.0
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835	for jewellery	835.0
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800	artefacts	800.0
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(c) & (d): There are no complaints received in BIS for violation of such purity standards by any particular licensee jeweller during 2010 and 2011. As per BIS scheme for certification of gold/silver jewellery/artefacts for fineness marking as per IS 1417:1999/IS 2112:2003, there is a provision for replacement in case of genuine complaints, which is given below:

`Whenever a complaint is received on the gold/silver jewellery / artefacts with the Hallmark purchased along with assay report from any BIS recognized Assaying & Hallmarking Centre, the same shall be replaced free of cost by the licensee in case the complaint is proved to be genuine. The final authority to judge conformity of the gold jewellery / artefacts to the Indian Standard shall be with BIS.`

BIS also has a mechanism for taking market samples from these jewellers and to deal with failure of samples under BIS Hallmarking Scheme. For the jewellers who have not taken licence from BIS for using hallmark on the jewellery being manufactured / sold by them, BIS has no control and does not take any action

(e): Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above. However, BIS has taken action against some of the licensee jewellers based on the market surveillance conducted by it, details of which are given in Annex- A.

(f): As on 15 Nov 2011, there are 8606 gold jewellers & 513 silver jewellers who are BIS licensees under its voluntary hallmarking Scheme. The list of these jewellers can be obtained from the BIS website, i.e., www.bis.org.in.