

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3121

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012

HALLMARKING OF GOLD

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has adopted mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery to protect the interests of consumers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the purity standards for ornamental gold;
- (c) whether the Government is giving incentives to jewellers for setting up of Assaying and Hallmarking centres;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of operative licences for gold jewellery and Assaying and Hallmarking centres recognised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in the country, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to promote and create awareness about gold hallmarking among the consumers?

Answer

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

(a): No Madam. At present, the Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery is voluntary in nature.

(b): Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated standard 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 Min. Carat

Fine gold 999	-		
Standard gold 995	-		
958.3	958	23	
916.6	916	22	
875	875	21	
750	750	18	
708	708	17	
585	585	14	
375	375	9	

(c): No, Madam.

(d): The details of financial incentive given for setting up of Assaying and Hallmarking centres, to such entrepreneurs, who do not have linkage with the jewellery trade, are given below :

For promoting hallmarking and help it to spread across the country, a scheme of setting up of Assaying and Hallmarking Centres for gold jewellery in 35 select districts on a pilot basis with central assistance was approved by Govt. in November 2005 under the 10th Five Year Plan, with a total out lay Rs. 5.75 crores. The scheme was continued in XI Plan with a total outlay of Rs 10.50 crores.

Assistance Rate to entrepreneurs as % of total cost of setting up of A&H centre is as under:

Area Rate

To Private	ToPSU
Entrepreneur	

Normal 30% 50%

NE - North East States, SCS - Special Category States, RA - Rural Areas

As on date, there are 9253 operative licenses for gold jewellery. The state-wise list of operative licences for gold jewellery is given at Annex-1 and state-wise list of Gold Hallmarking/ Assaying Centres is given at Annex-2.

(e): To promote hallmarking in the country, BIS is undertaking awareness programmes for jewelers/consumers and publicity through electronic and print media.