

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:753  
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012  
BIS STANDARDS FOR GOLD AND SILVER  
Pakkirappa Shri S.

**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 have been found violating the purity standards in various parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the mechanism in place to check such violations indicating the number of jewellers against whom action has been taken during the last three years; and
- (e) the details of the jewellers authorised to deal with hallmarked 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 following two Indian Standards on the subject:

i) IS 1417:1999 `Gold and Gold alloys, Jewellery/ Artefacts-Fineness and Marking- Specification` (Third Revision) with 4 amendments.

ii) IS 2112:2003 `Silver and Silver Alloys, Jewellery/ Artefacts- Fineness and Marking-Specification(Second Revision) with 4 amendments.

(c): Samples taken from 198 Jewellers had failed to meet the requirements of the relevant Indian Standards on Gold/ Silver Jewellery /Artefacts when tested by BIS.

(d): BIS is carrying out market survey of Jewellers licensed by BIS under Hallmarking Scheme. Samples are collected and tested at BIS laboratory or at BIS recognized laboratories to check conformity to the respective Indian Standard. When a sample is failed, it is communicated to the licensed jeweller asking them to take corrective actions and the corrective actions as taken are verified by BIS. Samples of 198 Jewellers had failed on testing according to relevant Indian Standards and action has been taken in such cases.

In the event of failure of sample, the Assaying & Hallmarking Centre who was responsible for the hallmarking of jewellery is also informed and advised to take corrective action, duly verified by BIS. If consecutive cases of failures occur, imposition of stop marking (withdrawal of right to hallmark) are done. In the cases of repetition, it may lead to cancellation of the licence.

(e): As on 30 Oct. 2012, there are 10184 gold jewellers & 652 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](http://www.bis.org.in).