

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6381

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015

HALLMARKING

Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao; Gupta Shri Sudheer; Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant; Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa; Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

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

- (a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has conducted any market survey to ascertain the purity of gold jewellery being sold by jewellers across the country and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to make hallmarking of jewellery mandatory in the country and if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue to the consumers therefrom along with the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented;
- (c) whether presently hallmarking centres are not available in smaller cities other than metros and some Tier I and Tier II cities; and
- (d) if so, details thereof and the steps taken to provide these facilities in small towns and cities also?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a): Yes, Madam, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) had conducted two market surveys in the year 2001 & 2006 of non-hallmarked jewellery being sold by the jewelers across the country .

Details of the same are given below:

Particulars	2001 (120 samples in 8 cities)	2006 (162 samples in 16 cities)
Samples failing	89%	90%
Average shortage in purity	11%	13.5%
Highest purity shortage	38.6%	44.6%

(b): No Madam.

(c) & (d): Setting up of Assaying & Hallmarking Centres is a commercial activity where entrepreneurs set up these centres keeping business viability in mind.

Central Assistance is granted for setting up of Centres by entrepreneurs in deficient locations under the Plan Scheme for setting up of Assaying and Hallmarking Centres.

As on 31st March 2015, there are 331 operative BIS recognized Assaying & Hallmarking Centres in India.