

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1069
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023

GOLD HALLMARKING LABORATORIES

1069. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:

Will the Minister of **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of gold hallmarking laboratories operational in the country as of date;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the hallmarking infrastructure before making gold hallmarking mandatory;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether it is true that the number of hallmarking laboratories are not sufficient to cater to the demand for gold hallmarking; and
- (e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the hallmarking infrastructure in the country?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(साध्वी निरंजन ज्योति)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

- (a) : The number of gold hallmarking laboratories operational in the country as of date is 1374
- (b) & (c) : Yes, Sir. The Hallmarking had been made mandatory from 23 June 2021 only in 256 districts of the Country which had at least one recognized Assaying & Hallmarking Centre (AHC). Further, effective from 01 June 2022, the ambit of mandatory hallmarking was extended to 32 more districts, making the mandatory hallmarking regime applicable in 288 districts having at least one recognized AHC. Thus, the infrastructure is sufficient to cater to the demands of the districts wherein Hallmarking has become mandatory.
- (d) : No, Sir. At present 1374 BIS Recognised AHCs, spread across 335 districts are under operation. The BIS Registered Jewellers can send their jewellery to any one of these centres. These AHCs have hallmarked more than 17 crore pieces of gold jewellery in the span of last 1.5 years since the implementation of mandatory hallmarking.
- (e) : Setting up of A&H centres is a market driven activity where decision to open an AHC at a particular location is taken by the private entrepreneur based on the demand at that location. After the implementation of the mandatory hallmarking order, the number of BIS Recognised Assaying and Hallmarking Centres have increased from 942 to 1374 in the span of 1.5 years. Further, Govt. also provides Central Assistance to prospective entrepreneurs for 'Setting up of Gold Assaying and Hallmarking Centres' in India in locations where no Assaying & Hallmarking Centre (assisted or otherwise) exists. BIS has also launched the scheme for setting up of Offsite centres (OSC) by the BIS recognised AHCs with the objective to provide the jewellers easy access to the hallmarking facility.
