

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2852
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2023

HALLMARK CENTRES IN MADHYA PRADESH

2852. SHRIMATI SANDHYA RAY:

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 hallmark Centres in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for undertaking of these centres; and
- (c) the details of the initiatives taken by the Government to support these centres?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) : As on 14/12/2023, 44 Assaying and Hallmarking Centres (AHCs) have been recognized by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in Madhya Pradesh. District-wise number of AHCs in Madhya Pradesh are given at **Annexure**.

(b) : Testing and marking of gold and silver jewellery and artefacts are carried out by testing laboratories recognised by BIS as Assaying and Hallmarking Centres (AHCs). Recognition is given to a laboratory by verifying its infrastructure and competence of personnel as per IS 15820 'General requirements for establishment and operation of Assaying and Hallmarking Centres.

(c) : Following initiatives have been taken by government to support these centres:

- (i) A central assistance scheme is in operation by the government which provides financial assistance for purchasing of machinery and equipments to set up AHCs in AHC-deficient districts. Financial assistance as per table given below of the cost of equipments is provided under this scheme:

Area	Prescribed rate	
	Private	PSU
Normal	30%	50%
North East/Special category States/Rural Areas	50%	75%

Four centres have been given assistance under this scheme till 14/12/2023 in Madhya Pradesh.

- (ii) Hallmarking fees per article has been revised from Rs. 35 to Rs. 45 for gold and Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 for silver articles to improve profitability and viability of setting up Assaying & Hallmarking Centres.
- (iii) A new scheme to set up Off-site centres (OSCs) was launched on 1 January 2022 which provides opportunity to AHCs to set up 5 new OSCs within 100 kms of parent AHC. Fire assaying activity is not carried out in these OSCs. Instead, samples are sent to parent AHCs for fire assaying activity. Thus, it saves equipment, space as well as personnel cost for AHCs to set up a new OSC compared to new AHC.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2852 FOR 20.12.2023 REGARDING HALLMARK CENTRES IN MADHYA PRADESH.

District wise AHC count in Madhya Pradesh		
SL No.	DISTRICT	NUMBER OF AHCs
1.	AGAR	0
2.	ALIRAJPUR	0
3.	ANUPPUR	0
4.	ASHOK NAGAR	0
5.	BALAGHAT	2
6.	BARWANI	0
7.	BETUL	0
8.	BHIND	0
9.	BHOPAL	6
10.	BURHANPUR	0
11.	CHHATARPUR	1
12.	CHHINDWARA	1
13.	DAMOH	0
14.	DATIA	0
15.	DEWAS	1
16.	DHAR	0
17.	DINDORI	0
18.	GUNA	0
19.	GWALIOR	3
20.	HARDA	0
21.	HOSHANGABAD	0
22.	INDORE	14
23.	JABALPUR	2
24.	JHABUA	0
25.	KATNI	0
26.	KHANDWA(EAST NIMAR)	0
27.	KHARGONE(WEST NIMAR)	0
28.	MANDLA	0
29.	MANDSAUR	0

30.	MAUGANJ	0
31.	MORENA	1
32.	NARSINGHPUR	0
33.	NEEMUCH	0
34.	NIWARI	0
35.	PANNA	0
36.	RAISEN	0
37.	RAJGARH	0
38.	RATLAM	7
39.	REWA	2
40.	SAGAR	0
41.	SATNA	3
42.	SEHORE	0
43.	SEONI	0
4.	SHAHNOL	0
45.	SHAJAPUR	0
46.	SHEOPUR	0
47.	SHIVPURI	0
48.	SIDHI	0
49.	SINGRAULI	0
50.	TIKAMGARH	0
51.	UJJAIN	1
52.	UMARIA	0
53.	VIDIHA	0
	TOTAL	44
