

in relief/running community kitchens for migrants/vulnerable groups due to present lock down condition, was introduced w.e.f 08.04.2020. Under this scheme wheat at the uniform rate of ₹21 per kilogram and rice at the uniform rate of ₹22 per kilogram were issued to charitable institutions/NGO. There was no upper limit of allocation of foodgrain to each such organization from any FCI depot. The said scheme was initially upto June, 2020 and now it has been extended at the same rate, terms and conditions for the rest of the year 2020-21. Under the scheme, a total quantity of 1210 MT wheat has been lifted by 228 charitable/NGOs. Similarly, 9967 MT rice has been lifted by 1112 charitable/NGOs as on 09.09.2020.

(b) With the view to effectively handle the public grievances under NFSA, all States/UTs have setup toll-free number/online grievance redressal systems in their respective portals. This is in addition to the existence of District Grievance Redressal Officers (DGROs), Vigilance Committees at different levels and State Food Commissions (SFCs) to rationalize the coverage of beneficiaries under NFSA. With the help of such mechanisms in place, the States/UTs are able to effectively address the grievances related to foodgrain distribution.

Total 1406 complaints have been received from various sources *i.e.* letter, website, email, PMO/minister/etc. These complaints have been forwarded to concerned States for further appropriate action at the earliest.

#### **Hallmarking of precious metals**

1500. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has launched digital solutions for registration and renewal process for licenses to jewellers and for recognition and renewal of Assaying and Hallmarking (A&H) Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that hallmarking of precious metals is set to become mandatory from June 1, 2021; and

(d) if so, the necessary measures being taken in this regard for providing ease of doing business for both the jewellers and the entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b)

Yes, Sir. In view of the Mandatory Hallmarking, the number of jewellers and hallmarking centres applying for Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certificate will increase manifold and to deal with increasing number of applications, an online system for issuing BIS certificate has been developed by BIS and launched by the Government on 21.08.2020. The online system enables the jewellers to submit the application for registration and fees online. In this system there will be no human interface in processing the applications. The moment a jeweller submits the application with the requisite fees, he will be granted registration.

For Assaying and Hallmarking Centres, the online system will ensure that applications to start a new centre or renew the existing license can be submitted online. Entire process of recognition, which involves audit of the centres, submission of audit report, and grant of recognition or renewal, has been automated. The applicant will have all the information available with him and can monitor the processing of applications.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As mentioned at (a) and (b) above, digital solutions for registration and renewal process for licenses for jewellers and for recognition and renewal of Assaying and Hallmarking (A&H) Centres have been made for providing ease of doing business.

For setting up of Gold Assaying and Hallmarking Centre in any district in India, where no A&H Centre exists, the Government provides financial assistance to the tune of 30 to 75% of the total cost of machinery and equipment, depending on the location and ownership.

#### **Quality norms for imported toys**

1501. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imported toys have been allowed to enter India only after complying with the mandatory quality norms from September 1, 2020 onwards;

(b) if so, the measures that have been taken for the mandatory Quality Control Standard (QCS) for toys;

(c) whether Government has made any arrangement for posting Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) staff at major ports to take the sample and test the product at the port itself; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?