

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had notified Quality Control Order (QCO) on toys on 25.02.2020 with implementation date as 1.9.2020. However, at the request of Industry associations, the implementation date has been extended as 01.01.2021.

As per this Order, it has been made compulsory for toys to conform to the corresponding Indian Standards for Safety of Toys and to bear Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Standard Mark under a licence from BIS as per Scheme-I of Schedule-II of BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018.

(c) and (d) Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued notification No. 33/2015-2020 dated 02.12.2019 regarding random sample testing on toy consignment and successful clearance is mandatory in case of import of toys. Officers have been posted at Port of entry for drawal of market samples from the consignments of foreign licensees and Standard Operating Protocol in this regard has been shared with the customs.

Failure of samples collected from PDS shops and depots of Madhya Pradesh

1502. 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 Ministry officials had inspected and collected 32 samples from Public Distribution System (PDS) shops and depots in various districts of Madhya Pradesh, in August, 2020 and analysed them at the Central Grain Analysis Laboratory;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the analysis these samples were found unfit for human consumption;

(c) if so, whether any communication has been sent in this regard by the Central Government to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the contents of this communication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Three depots of Madhya Pradesh (MP) State agencies, one depot of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) as well as one Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the districts of Balaghat and Mandala were inspected by a team lead by Deputy Commissioner (Storage and Research) w.e.f. 30.07.2020 to 02.08.2020.