

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2123  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2000  
EXPORT OF GEMS JEWELLERY  
ANANTA NAYAK;PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) the countries which are importing gems and jewellery from India at present;
- (b) whether steps are being taken to increase the export of gems and jewellery;
- (c) if so, the negotiations made in that regard;
- (d) the performance made in the export of gems, jewellery and diamond during the last three years
- (e) whether any target has been fixed for the export of these items in Ninth and Tenth Five year plan; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH )

(a) : The major countries importing gems & jewellery from India include:

- (i) United States of America (USA);
- (ii) Hongkong;
- (iii) Belgium;
- (iv) Japan;
- (v) Israel;
- (vi) Thailand;
- (vii) Switzerland;
- (viii) United Arab Emirate (UAE);
- (ix) Kuwait;
- (x) Germany; and
- (xi) Singapore.

(b) & (c) : Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken on a continuous basis to increase the export of gems & jewellery by taking up several exporter friendly export promotion schemes. Export-Import Policy initiatives are announced annually on the basis of requirements of trade and the prevailing global economic conditions. Some of the important policy initiatives announced in the Exim Policy w.e.f. 1st April, 2000 include:

1. Permission to firms and companies dealing in the purchase/sale of rough or cut & polished

diamonds with a track record of at least three years in import or export of diamonds and having an average annual turnover of Rs. 5 crore or above during the preceding three licensing years to carry out their business through designated Diamond Dollar Accounts,

2. Permission to foreign buyers to directly supply gold/silver/platinum and also plain semi-finished gold/silver/platinum jewellery to the status holders in India for manufacture and export of gold/silver/platinum jewellery;
3. Doing away with the necessity of co-relation of every export consignment of diamonds with the corresponding import consignment in EPZ units;
4. Permission for personal carriage of gems and jewellery import parcels;
5. Wastage of 2.5% has been allowed in case imported gold/silver/platinum mountings are used in studded jewellery;
6. Permission for duty paid import of plain/studded jewellery items under Replenishment Licence to the extent of 2.5% of the FOB value of exports of the preceding year;
- 7 Rationalisation of definition of gold/silver/platinum jewellery/articles and prescription of value addition and wastage norms for articles like medallions etc.,; and
8. Permission to import and supply platinum of 0.900 fineness.

Besides the above Exim Policy initiatives, Government have reduced the Customs duty on platinum and cut and polished diamonds to 15%.

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), a representative autonomous body of trade, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry had sent a business delegation to Canada with a view to explore the possibilities of direct sourcing of rough diamonds. A business delegation of GJEPC is also going to visit Russia to firm up arrangements for direct supply of rough diamonds from them. Another regular activity/feature of GJEPC towards promoting exports of gems & jewellery is the holding of exhibitions within India and participating in several overseas exhibitions.

(d) :Export performance of gems & jewellery and diamonds sector during the last three years has been as under:

(Value in US \$)  
Years Value of gems & jewellery exports Value of diamond exports  
(including diamonds)

1997-98	5345.34	4309.21
1998-99	5904.05	4748.56
1999-2000	8145.00	6648.00

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta for 1997-98 &1998-99 and GJEPC, Mumbai for 1999-2000

(e) & (f) :Only annual export targets are fixed for various sectors including the gems & jewellery sector. The following export target have been fixed for the gems & jewellery sector for the year 2000-2001:

(Value in US \$)

Items	Value of Export Target
Cut & Polished Diamonds	7000
Rough Diamonds	142
Gold Jewellery	1150
Coloured Gemstones and Others	265
Total	8557