

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.333
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th DECEMBER, 2017

IMPORT OF ARTIFICIAL DIAMONDS FROM CHINA

333. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that artificial diamonds are being imported from China in large numbers which look like real ones but have no resale value;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government is also aware that Indian consumers are being cheated due to lack of identification of genuineness of imported diamonds from China; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to save the Indian consumers from being cheated?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): Artificial diamonds are also known as “man-made”/“synthetic”/ “lab-created”/ “lab-grown” diamonds. These are artificially created stones that are made in specialized laboratory conditions. These diamonds have the same physical and chemical properties and are identical to diamonds of natural origin.

With growth in this specialised sector, the diamond industry brought to the notice of the Government the need for creation of a separate Harmonised Systems Code (HS Code) for Synthetic Diamonds and synthetic stones. Accordingly, in the interest of the consumers, two separate codes were created in the Finance Bill, 2016. The new codes created are 7104 90 10 for Synthetic Diamonds & 7104 90 90 for synthetic stones, thereby establishing a clear classification differentiation from natural Diamonds which fall under HS Code Heading: 7102.

Import data of Diamonds under Exim Code 7102 (Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set) and 7104 90 10 (Laboratory created or laboratory grown or manmade or cultured or synthetic diamonds) from China vis-a-vis total imports is as under:

Table:1

Import of diamonds (HS code 7102)

Values in US \$ Million

Year	Total Imports	Imports from China
2014-15	20,495.36	1.30
2015-16	16,865.96	6.21
2016-17	19,332.14	1.31
2017-18 (APR TO SEP)	15,091.34*	0.17*

* provisional.

Table: 2

<u>Import under HS Code 71049010 (Lab grown Diamonds)</u>		
Values in US \$ Mill		
Year	Total Imports	Imports from China
2017-18 (APR TO SEP)	160.33*	1.35*

* provisional.

From the above, it may be seen that imports from China is miniscule compared to our total import.
