

when the Minister concerned, who replied my question, was in Britain in the last part of December, last year, a group of representatives of Indian nationals residing in Britain met him and complained about the difficulties they were facing about this particular Act—those who are desirous to invest some money in property in India. He particularly assured them that he will take some action on it. Whether it is a fact and what specific complaints were made by the representatives of the Indian residents in Britain about the hardship caused to them from the operation of the F.E.R.A. What are those particular difficulties and what he is going to do about them?

**SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:** This is a fact that I went to London. This is also a fact that I met non-resident Indians there. This is also a fact that they represented to me about certain difficulties. And this is also a fact that those difficulties are being looked into; and we have set up a study group of senior officers. They are going to advise the Government and I am sure that by the end of a month some decision is likely to be taken on that but for that purpose no amendment of the F.E.R.A. is needed.

**SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:** He has not answered my question. I want to know what are the specific difficulties they explained and placed before you? What is the Study Group, which you have formed, studying and when is the Study Group likely to give you its report?

**SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:** After coming into force of the F.E.R.A., it was incumbent on the non-resident Indians to intimate to the Reserve Bank of India regarding the acquisition of properties. This they had to do within three months after coming into force of F.E.R.A. Many of them did not comply with it because they did not know about it. So, their complaint was that that should be regularised now and they should be

given a chance to fill up the forms and intimate to the Reserve Bank hereafter. We are considering that proposal. We have simplified the form also for those people and we are going to issue instructions very soon. But for that purpose only administrative guidelines will be sufficient and a Press Note will be issued by the Reserve Bank of India. After Government have taken the decision no amendment is necessary just to look in to their difficulties.

**SHRI A. R. BADRINARAYAN:** On the 14th of December you were in London and the Prime Minister also was there on the 11th of November. The Indian residents in foreign countries have been experiencing a lot of difficulties in regard to their investment. Since a good proportion of our foreign exchange earnings is through the remittances by our Indian residents abroad, they have been experiencing a lot of difficulties. You basis of the study some practical steps will be taken. What practical steps are you taking and how soon are you taking the practical steps? You want that the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act be amended. But we want that their difficulties should be got remedied. What steps have you taken and how long will you take to do that?

**MR. SPEAKER:** He has answered that question.

Mr. Agarwal, you have already mentioned it—what are the difficulties, what steps have been taken and by the end of this month you might get the report.

**SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:** And then we will take a decision.

श्रीों और रत्नों कादि का निष्पत्त

\* 449. श्री राजेश कुमार शर्मा : क्या वाणिज्य, वाणिज्य प्रति तथा सहकारिता यंत्री यत्न बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या वर्ष 1978-79 में श्रीों और रत्नों कादि के निष्पत्त में कमी हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हा, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और निर्यात में कमी को रोकने के लिये क्या कार्य-वाही करने का विचार है; और

(ग) वर्ष 1976-77 और 1977-78 की तुलना में 1978-79 में (दिसम्बर) कितनी कीमत के हीरो और रत्नो आदि का निर्यात किया गया और इससे कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त हुई?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL  
SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION  
(SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) to (c). A  
statement is laid on the Table of the  
House

Statement

(a) and (b) According to information available with the Government, exports of diamonds and precious/semi-precious stones in 1978-79-April-November-were of the order of Rs. 336.15 crores and Rs. 15.79

crores respectively. The exports of these items during the corresponding period 1977-78 were Rs. 264.51 crores and Rs. 13.28 crores respectively.

As the above figures will reveal there has been no decline in exports of these items in the period April-November 1978-79. Government is however, aware of a recent sluggishness in the diamond export trade as a result of recessionary conditions in the international markets. The situation is being closely reviewed in consultation with the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

(c) The Export value of diamonds and precious/semi-precious stones during the years 1976-77, 1977-78 and April-November 1978-79 have been as under:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79 (April- Nov) (Provisional)
1. Diamonds	211.84	516.68	336.15
2. Precious/Semi precious stones	20.99	25.29	15.79

(Source : DCCI&S for 1976-77 & 1977-78.  
G & JEPC for April-Nov. 1978-79).

The exports of these items to major importing countries during the period were as follows:-

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Country	1976-77		1977-78		1978-79	
	Diamonds	Precious/ Semi/ precious stones	Diamonds	Precious/ Semi/ precious stones	Diamonds	Precious/ Semi/ Precious stones
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Belgium	58.76	0.82	138.98	0.91	73.29	0.21
France	3.33	4.72	7.69	5.47	4.66	4.28
Hong Kong	34.15	2.73	58.15	3.07	45.57	0.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4 Japan	25 82	1 43	35 54	0 84	21 81	0 29
5 Netherland	14 35	0 43	17 49	0 60	17 16	0 24
6 Singapore	8 09	0 32	7 54	0 55	5 23	0 34
7 Switzerland	9 61	3 32	17 34	2 30	9 09	1 35
8. U K	5 73	2 16	12 57	1 98	9 88	1 10
9 U S A	56 63	6 25	111 40	1 49	74 83	3 99
10 West Germany	1 66	3 93	6 01	3 91	3 03	2 35

(\*Figures available for April-October only)

(Source Gem & Jewellery EPC Bombay)

श्री राजेन्द्र कुमार शर्मा अध्यक्ष महोदय, हीरे तथा मूल्यवान और धर्ममूल्यवान रत्न हमारे देश में विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करने का एक बहुत बड़ा स्रोत है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो आंकड़े प्रस्तुत किये हैं उनमें यह स्पष्ट होता है कि 1977-78 में हमने इनके निर्यात से बहुत बड़ा मात्रा में विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित की थी किन्तु 1978-79 में इनका निर्यात गिर गया। क्या मंत्री जी इसकी जानकारी देंगे कि इससे क्या कारण है?

श्री आरिफ बेग अध्यक्ष महोदय जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य न कहा है कि 1978-79 में इनका निर्यात कम हुआ है, यह बात ठीक नहीं है। मैं उनको आंकड़ों से जानकारी देना चाहता हूँ कि 1978-79 में फरवरी तक हमारा निर्यात 639 करोड़ रुपये तक पहुँच गया है जब कि हमने टारगेट 550 करोड़ का मुकदर किया था। याने हमारा निर्यात 550 करोड़ रुपये से बड़ कर 639 करोड़ रुपये तक पहुँच गया। हम शर्मा करते हैं कि धीरे भी आंकड़ा घाटे बड़ेगा। इसलिए जो जानकारी मेरे भाई जी है वह ठीक नहीं है।

श्री राजेन्द्र कुमार शर्मा अध्यक्ष महोदय को बढ़ाने के लिए क्या सरकार के विचारार्थीन कोई योजना है यदि है तो उसकी रूपरेखा क्या है?

श्री आरिफ बेग मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि आज हमारी फारेन अर्थिन्स में सब से बड़े जो स्रोत हैं उन में से चीन्स और ज्यूवेलरी एक बहुत बड़ा आइटम है। हम इस बात की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि इस में धीरे धीरे अर्थिक वृद्धि हो। सरकार ने जो योजना बनाई है उसके अन्तर्गत इस सेक्टर में जितने ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगो को हम एम्प्लायमेंट दे

सकते हैं धीरे इस काम का प्रोत्साहन दे सकते हैं देने की कोशिश करेंगे धीरे की जा रही है। इसके लिए हम न बहुत म कदम उठाए हैं। सब म पहला काम हमने यह किया है कि इस निज्जारत को फारेम देने के लिए हम ने जो इम्पोर्ट इयूटी डायमंड्स पर लगी थी उसको ग्वानिष किया है। प्रेजन्ट स्टोड के मन्वन्ध में भी जा इम्पाट इयूटी अभी तक भी उसको हमने ग्वानिष किया है। इसके अतिरिक्त

we have established Indian Diamond Institute for imparting training in improved methods and techniques of cutting and polishing of diamonds which was inaugurated by our Commerce Minister in May, 1978

इस तरह से बहुत म कदम उठाए हैं ताकि हम इस निज्जारत को फारेम दे सकें।

श्री सुबेन्द्र सिंह निर्यात में जो गिरावट आई है उसका कारण अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में केवल मांग का कम हो जाना ही नहीं है। मध्य प्रदेश में पन्ना में हीरो की खानें हैं। वहा वही प्रबन्धवस्था है। वहा जो खोर्निया होती है वह भी इसका एक बहुत बड़ा कारण है। पहले जितने मूल्य के वहा से हीरे निकलते थे अब उसको मुकाबले में बहुत कम मूल्य के निकल रहे हैं। यहा जो प्रबन्धवस्था है क्या वह भी एक कारण नहीं है कि निर्यात में कमी आ रही है? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या पन्ना माइन्स के बारे में आपको कोई विकल्पतो मिली है।

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE,  
CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA)  
Regarding the first point, I would

like to clarify that this is an area where we have made a very good stride and the House will be happy to know that the export of diamonds, gems and jewellery this year will, perhaps, cross the mark of Rs. 700 crores. This is how we have gone ahead. So to say that we have not done anything and the exports are declining in this sector will be doing great injustice to the industry.

Regarding Panna mines, it is a very important issue raised by the hon. Member. We do require rough sights for diamond cutting business and, therefore, we have taken up the matter with the concerned Ministry and all our efforts will be made to innovate the existing diamond mines in the country so that we can get raw material from our own resources.

**SHRI AMRIT NAHATA:** I do not want to dampen the enthusiasm of the Minister but I want to warn him that his enthusiasm is totally misplaced. In view of the fact that presently, there is a terrific slump in the diamond trade in our country, in view of the fact that more than one lakh workers employed in diamond cutting and polishing business in Surat, Palanpur and Navsari and Bombay have been rendered jobless at a time when Government was expecting to provide employment to more than two lakh workers this year, in view of the fact that only 56 big diamond traders in this country enjoy the monopoly of importing diamond roughs and they in turn depend on the monopoly of the Diamond Trading Corporation, a subsidiary of Central Selling Organisation in London, in view of the fact that this year this DTC has supplied diamonds only to 28 site holders out of 56 site holders, in view of the fact that this Diamond Trading Corporation has raised the price of diamond roughs during three years, four-fold and that last year, DTC profits from India were 2000 crores, in view of the fact that this DTC is now a partner, a shareholder in the Government sponsored

company, Hindustan Diamond Company and this DTC has refused to supply diamond roughs even to this Government sponsored company....

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now, at least come to the question.

**SHRI AMRIT NAHATA:** In view of the fact that this DTC wants to supply diamond rough to Hindustan Diamond Company on its own humiliating terms and conditions...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Be brief, Mr. Nahata. It is Question Hour, you see. (Interruptions). There are other diamonds coming down!

**SHRI AMRIT NAHATA:** Humiliating terms being that DTC will sell diamond rough through across the table negotiations with big traders through their own officers and this DTC being a multi-national company registered in racist South Africa, is interested in containing diamond trade in India and expanding it in Israel and China; in view of all this, will the Government ask this Company to buy the shares of DTC? Will the Government convert Hindustan Diamond Company into a wholly government owned company? Will the Government break the monopoly grip of DTC and go directly to the primary sources of diamond like Ghana, like Sterrelonne, like Tanzania, like Angola, Liberia and USSR and import the diamond rough directly and supply it to thousands of young enterprising small diamond traders and provide employment to thousands of workers?

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have covered one month's question.

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA:** Sir, I would like to clarify that so far as the Hindustan Diamond Company is concerned, DTC is not a partner within the Diamond Corporation. It is the Bank of Bermuda. Our only investment....

**SHRI AMRIT NAHATA:** Sir, I object. The Bank of Bermuda is a cover for DTC. The Bank of Bermuda has no diamond interest. Recently a meeting was held in the Commerce Ministry in which Mr. Dawe, a representative of DTC, participated.

(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** We have heard enough from one source. (Interruptions). No, I am not allowing.

**SHRI AMRIT NAHATA:** It is a cover for DTC. The Bank of Bermuda has no interest in diamonds

(Interruptions)

**SHRI MOHAN DHARIA:** Sir, our own friends should not forget our own interest first. Here the question is of securing rough diamonds from the World. It is very much true that this Diamond Trading Corporation is having its own monopoly in the world, but it will not be correct to say that we are under their clutches. On the contrary, all efforts are being made to purchase these rough diamonds not only from DTC, but also from the markets like Antwerp and London. My friend, Mr. Nahata is well aware of it. Secondly, all efforts are being made to secure diamonds from all possible sources in the country and for the knowledge of my friends, Mr. Nahata, we are also having our efforts to secure diamonds even from Soviet Russia. Sir, we are concerned with securing rough diamonds with a view to have more exports and to provide jobs to hundreds of our people. During the course of these two years, this House should be happy to know that it was possible for us to provide jobs to nearly two lakhs of our youngsters in the country because the prices in the international market this year have gone up. That is the reason why there is slump in the market. That is not because that there is no supply of diamonds.

It is because of the international prices. But even then the fact is that

our exports as against last year which were of the order of Rs. 518 crores, will be of the order of Rs. 618 crores this year. Is it not enough that we have exported much more compared to last year? It is perhaps more than fifty per cent. One more charge has been made that last year more than Rs 2000 crores have been given by our country to the Diamond Trading Corporation. Now when the whole exports are of the order of Rs. 518 crores, out of which, 80 per cent are rough diamonds, at the most we may have purchased diamonds of the order of Rs. 400 crores from all sources in the world. How is it possible that the profits to be given to the Diamond Trading Corporation are of the order of Rs. 2000 crores? The fallacy lies in the question itself.

#### Prize Incentive Scheme for Post Office Savings Bank Accounts

\*451. **SHRI RAJ KESHAR SINGH:** Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prize Incentive Scheme for those who maintain a minimum balance of Rs. 200/- in the post office savings bank is still in vogue; and

(b) if so, why the results of the prize winning depositors for the last so many periods have not been made public through the Press?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The results of each draw held so far have been published in various newspapers in English, Hindi and regional languages all over the country. For the tenth and latest draw held at Madras on 31-1-1970, the results were published in 46 newspapers all over the country; 9 newspapers in English, 11 in Hindi and 26 in other languages.