

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What is secret about it? That is the question.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सुन तो लें मेरी बात ।

... (व्यवधान) ...

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : If he is not aware of the prices, he should not remain as Minister. If knowing it, he is suppressing the fact, he should be dismissed.

MR. SPEAKER : What a formula !

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR : We are making contracts in different places through agents in various parts of the world and this is not the right time to disclose the prices.

MR. SPEAKER : You will tell them later on.

Crisis in Diamond Industry

*193. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the diamond industry is facing a crisis ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost this industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Measures have constantly been taken to increase the exports of processed diamonds from the country, parti-

cularly for the modernisation and diversification of the industry and improve productivity.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : The hon. Minister in his reply has told that constant measures are being taken to increase the exports of processed diamonds. Sir, may I know, what is the quantity of diamonds exported from our country to the countries abroad for the last three years and the foreign exchange earned by us and the names of those countries which have imported our diamonds? And, Sir, one thing more. May I know the names of the places where such industries are located? And is it a fact that due to lack of foreign post offices in those localities, the industry is facing problems in sending diamonds, ornaments, etc. to other places? If so, what action has his Ministry taken to persuade the Communications Ministry to open such Foreign Post offices in those places?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR : Diamonds account for about 90% of the total exports of gem and jewellery from India. Out of our total export of gem and jewellery which runs Rs. 1324 crores, our diamonds account for a little more than Rs. 1189 crores. So, this is about 90% of our export of gem and jewellery.

The hon. Member asked which are the markets for our diamonds. The major markets for Indian diamonds are USA, Belgium, Hong Kong, Japan, U.K., Switzerland, Singapore and West Germany. These are the main countries where we are exporting diamonds.

The next question is about export figures for the last three years, and also the value we have realized. In 1981-82, the total diamond export was of 40.50 lakh carats, and the value was Rs. 727.76 crores. In 1982-83 it was 46.56 lakh carats, and the value was Rs. 912.83 crores. In 1983-84, it is 55.88 lakh carats, and the value was Rs. 1189.18 crores.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : It is revealed from the replies given by the

hon. Minister that there is a good demand for our diamonds in foreign countries. So, may I know from the hon. Minister what measures have been taken to give incentives to those industries, so that they may manufacture more diamonds? What are the demands of different foreign countries, and what is our own home demand? What is our production, to meet these demands?

I will not be allowed to put another supplementary. So, may I know whether it is a fact that the diamonds manufactured in our country are suggested to foreign countries on a large scale? What action is the Ministry going to take in co-ordination with the Finance Ministry, to check this smuggling? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR : The first point was : what are the measures we are taking, for improving the quality of our diamond products, and what are the measures Government has taken. Government has taken various measures in this regard. Eirstly, I would say that there is the reduction in duty on tools and equipment; then we have training facilities for artisans. These actions have already been taken. Among the other facilities, incentives are also being given for the export of cut and polished diamonds. There is a reduction in duty on some of the machines and equipment. Also, on some of the machinery and equipment necessary for this sort of industries, the duty was reduced to 40% in the last budget presented by our Finance Minister. So, these are the various steps. There are certain institutions. We are also asking foreign experts to come and give training to our people.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : What about smuggling?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR : Various steps are taken to check smuggling. (*Interruptions*).

श्री दिलीप सिंह भूरिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय हीरे का जहां तक सम्बन्ध है, वह मध्य प्रदेश

में सबसे अधिक निकलता है लेकिन वहीं मौके पर उसका नीलाम न हो कर, उसको बम्बई और दिल्ली लाया जाता है और बीच में ही कहीं वह गायब हो जाता है। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं क्या इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था करेंगे कि नीलामी बोली लगाने वाले वहीं पर आयें और वहीं मौके पर हीरों की नीलामी हो?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR : Most of our diamonds we are importing and then after finishing them here, we are exporting.

Proposal of FICCI to Step up Annual Sino-Indian Trade

*194 **SHRI CHITTA BASU :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry have recently made a proposal for stepping up the annual Sino-Indian trade to Rs.1,000 crores from the current Rs.145 crores in the next three years; and

(b) if so, whether Government have since examined the feasibility of the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Steps are being taken to promote Sino-Indian trade.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : As you know, the present level of trade between India and China is practically insignificant. India's share in China's total trade is 0.4 per cent and China's share in India's total trade is 0.6 per cent. Now, FICCI want that the trade between our two countries should be increased by about 700 per cent. In this context, have they examined the feasibility of the proposals given by FICCI? If it is to be made a feasible proposition, then