

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3562
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2004
DIAMOND EXPORT
Rana Shri Kashi Ram

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

- (a) whether Government has fixed a target of 60 per cent share to be achieved in the world diamond market by 2005;
- (b) if so, the strategy adopted to achieve this target; and
- (c) the new facilities proposed to be provided to the exporters in order to boost the export of diamond and jewels?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a) to (c) As per the study conducted earlier by Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, (GJEPC), a representative body of the trade, India has the potential of increasing its market share of export of cut and polished diamonds to 60% by value by the year 2005. The Medium Term Export Strategy of the Government for the year 2002-07 encompasses forging strategic alliances with producers of rough diamonds and retailers of jewellery, encouraging forward integration into gemstone jewellery, hallmarking and certifying goods towards development of Indian brand in jewellery and developing market intelligence focusing on USA, Japan, France etc. and on the NRIs.

In the existing Export-Import Policy, the licensing regime for rough diamonds has been abolished. The Custom duty on the import of rough diamonds is 0%. Exploring direct procurements of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries is an ongoing exercise. Funds have been provided to create training infrastructure in the gem & jewellery sector by setting up an institute for jewellery design and manufacture under the auspices of the Indian Diamond Institute at Surat. To impart skills in designing in jewellery sector, Government has provided financial assistance to GJEPC to set up Indian Institute of Gem & Jewellery at Mumbai. For promotion of India's gem and jewellery abroad, publicity campaign, participation in international fairs, buyers and sellers meet are organised every year.