

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3903
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2006
DIAMOND TRADING CENTRE
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up International Diamond Trading Centre in India ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India is the largest buyer of diamond roughs in the world;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to allow FDI in the diamond exploration; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) It is the endeavour of the Government to develop India as an International Diamond Trading Centre. A Committee has been constituted to recommend policy initiatives to be taken to achieve this objective.

(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. Import of rough diamonds into India during the last three years is as follows:-

(In million US\$)

Year Import of rough diamonds

2003-2004- 7130.09

2004-2005 - 6667.62

2005-2006 - 6261.04

Source: DGCI&S

(e)&(f) As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100%, is permitted under the automatic route for exploration and mining of diamonds.