

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2901
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st MARCH, 2018

DIAMOND CUTTING AND POLISHING TRADE

2901. SHRI C.M. RAMESH:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of diamond cutting and polishing trade in the country during last three years and current year and how this can be compared with other competitive countries of world;
- (b) what impact Nirav Modi's scam will have on diamond cutting and polishing sector in the country;
- (c) whether there are strong rumours/ indications that diamond cutting trade may be shifted to Israel and Belgium in view of tightening of credit line from banks;
- (d) whether any consultations have been held with Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Export/import statistics of India and major competitive countries viz Israel and Belgium for cut and polished diamonds during last three calendar year is as under:-

Values in USD Billion

Year	Trade	India	Israel	Belgium
2017	Exports	15.92	NA	11.40
	Imports	2.39	NA	11.13
2016	Exports	15.47	12.69	11.8
	Imports	2.67	3.63	11.39
2015	Exports	15.2	15.11	11.07
	Imports	3.41	3.79	11.13

SOURCE: GJEPC

(b) Nirav Modi's incident which took place beyond the legalities and outside of the approved due diligence system set by Reserve Bank of India for the banks. As such, this incident has no bearing with the industry and the way it operates.

(c) There are some media reports on possibility of shifting diamond cutting trade to Israel and Belgium, which are based on opinion of some diamantaires not on any facts. The diamond cutting and polishing industry in India has been developed in more than 50 years and today India is world leader in cutting and polishing of diamond. The skills acquired by Indian karigars cannot be easily acquired by any country.

(d) & (e) Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council has been consulted in this regard and replies to part (b) and (c) above are based on such consultation.

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