

Rise and falls of gem industry in Sri Lanka - with special reference to the period of 1960-2007

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The Gem Industry in Sri Lanka has a remarkable long history. Since in then, This study focuses the period of 1960-2007 with respects to the important years of the industry. As far back as before mid 60's utilization of gem resources were concerned along with and remained on the hands of private individuals. So the state government of Sri Lanka was losing much needed revenue and foreign exchange reportedly. In accordance with the budget speech of the Finance Minister on July 30th of 1964, Dr.N.M.Perera argued, more than 60 million worth of revenue may have been smuggled out from the country by the black market operations in foreign exchange (see *budget report 1964*). Hence, Dr. N.M. Perera expressed the importance of a regulatory body to the industry, put forward to established 'State Gem Corporation' in 1971 enacted by the parliamentary Act No of 1971. Then, thereafter the statistical records shown in increasing way of the foreign exchange Rs. 3.4 million in 1971 to Rs. 152.8 million in 1973 to Rs. 234 million in 1974, making the third largest export income earner tot the country (Central Bank- Annual Report). Since in then the 'State Gem Corporation' plays a key role in the development of the gem industry of the island while diminishing the monopoly of the industry.

In this study I'm willing take as a whole depiction of the industry since in 1960- to 2007 in order to improve the quality, standards and sustainability of the gem industry in Sri Lanka.

Further it is subject to collect the data through key interview of legends in the industry, distributing questionnaire for the related authoriteis and to the individuals, possible references of the relatedsd publication.

Key words: State Gem Cooperation, Revenue, Foreign exchange, Rise, Falls

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