

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1721  
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2003  
DOMESTIC DIAMOND INDUSTRY  
GADDAM GANGA REDDY

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

- (a) whether India accounts for over 70 per cent of the global diamond cutting and polishing industry;
- (b) whether China is eyeing that industry in view of cheap labour cost in China; and
- (c) the action proposed to review labour policies, infrastructure bottlenecks etc. threatening domestic diamond industry with labour problems with threat to relocate?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

a) India is the largest cutting and polishing centre in the world. India's share in global cut & polished diamonds approximately is 60% in terms of value, 85% in terms of volume, 92% in terms of pieces. 11 out of 12 diamonds set in Jewellery worldwide are cut & polished in India.

b) Yes, Sir.

c) Review and updation of labour policy is a continuous process so as to ensure its relevance to the emerging needs. The labour policy to a large extent is governed by various labour laws aimed at protecting the interest of workers in terms of their health, social security, welfare, and safety within the frame of overall economic policy of the Government. In the recent years the Government initiated the process of Labour Reforms with a view to meeting the challenges of globalization. Accordingly, steps have been initiated to carry out amendments in some important labour laws with a view to maintaining their contemporariness. The Indian diamond Industry uses advanced technology to remain competitive.