

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1307
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001
BAN ON TOXIC CHEMICALS
ABUL HASNAT KHAN;BASUDEB ACHARIA;HANNAN MOLLAH

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many countries have signed a global treaty banning the use of twelve highly toxic chemicals widely known as `the dirty dozen` contributing to birth defects, cancer and other problems in human and animals;
- (b) whether some new chemicals have been added to the list;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to ban the use of such pesticides / chemicals in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a): Yes Sir. An international legally binding instrument, namely the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), has been adopted recently to initiate international action to protect human health and environment through measures and to eliminate emissions and discharge of twelve POPs. As per available information, 93 States and Regional Economic Integration Organizations have signed the Convention.

(b): No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d). . India adopted the Convention and signed the Final Act on May 23, 2001. The following steps have been taken by the Government ;

Out of 12 POPs chemicals, 6 chemicals (aldrin, chlordane, endrin, heptachlor, toxaprene, hexachlorobenzene) have been banned whereas 2 chemicals (DDT and dieldrin) are under restricted use. The pesticide Mirex is not registered in India. Polychlorinated biphenyls are not produced in our country. Dioxins and Furans are unintended by-products.