

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5276

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002

ACCIDENTS DUE TO HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

RAMDAS ATHAWALE

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(

(a) Whether the number of accidents occurring due to hazardous chemical substances have increased in the country particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years; (

(b) if so, the details thereof during the said period, State-wise; (

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; (

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate an effective policy to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future; and (

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

( a ) & ( b ) As per information made available by the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health, Mumbai, the number of accidents occurred due to hazardous chemical substances during the last three years in Maharashtra is as follows:

Type	1998		1999		2000	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Explosion	16	86	10	22	22	68
Fire	12	76	11	63	11	26
Toxic release	3	16	3	64	7	20

( c ) , ( d ) & ( e ) The Government of India has notified the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 and Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response), Rules, 1996 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to prevent accidents and minimise damage caused by accidents. Inter-alia, the rules stipulate preparation of On-site Emergency Plans and carrying out of Mock-drills and periodic safety audits. Compliance is monitored by the State Inspectorate of Factories.