

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6069
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
BAN ON IMPORT OF ASBESTOS
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

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

- (a) the salient findings of the work done on asbestos at ITRC, Lucknow and NIOH Ahmedabad and other bodies like Toxics Links, New Delhi;
- (b) whether asbestos has been banned in many countries across the world;
- (c) if so, names of these countries and reasons for such a ban; and
- (d) the steps proposed by the Government to ban the import of asbestos and safeguard the public health from the ill effects of asbestos?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

- (a) Studies conducted by ITRC, Lucknow, NIOH, Ahmedabad, Toxics Link, New Delhi have indicated, inter alia, incidences of Asbestosis (fibrosis of the lungs) among workers due to exposure to asbestos.
- (b) & (c) As per the available information, countries such as Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Netherlands, Finland, Italy, Germany, France, Poland, Belgium, U.K. have introduced partial ban/ restrictions in the use and manufacture of asbestos fibre-based products due to its potential health impacts.
- (d) Import of asbestos waste (dust & fibre) is banned by the Government of India vide Notification S.O. No.899(E) dated 13.10.1998. Further, Blue Asbestos (crocidolite), which is the most harmful form of asbestos fibres, has been placed in the negative list of imports under the EXIM Policy.