

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:20
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
RECYCLING OF HOSPITAL WASTES
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that not only injection needles and syringes but also the used cotton of hospitals are being recycled for making cotton carpets, pillows and mattresses which is quite hazardous for human health;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have taken any stern action to check such recycling of hospital wastes; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) No such incident has come to the notice of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. However, in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, the injection needles, syringes and used cotton including other infectious wastes are disposed off as per the guidelines provided under the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) rules, 1998.

(b)&(c): The Government requested all States/Union Territories to take necessary steps to ensure that the rules as stipulated in the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 are implemented in letter and spirit and to set up an inspection procedure to ensure that disposable items are segregated and treated properly before disposal so that the same are rendered unuseable.