

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3468  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003  
DISCHARGE OF MERCURY WASTE BY HINDUSTAN LEVER  
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the disposal/discharge of mercury waste in Kodaikanal is approximately 75 kg. a year by Hindustan Lever;
- (b) if so, whether the Pollution Control Board has been measuring the level of pollution periodically and taking corrective steps at the appropriate time; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

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

(a): A mercury thermometer manufacturing factory of M/S Hindustan Lever Limited (HLL), was in operation in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu during 1983 to March 2001. During the period of it's operation, the unit had generated about 290 tons of mercury contaminated wastes. Subsequent to the issue of closure orders by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), the factory was closed down in March 2001.

(b)&(c): When the unit was in operation, the performance of it's Effluent Treatment Plant was monitored regularly by the TNPCB by way of periodic collection & analysis of samples. Based on the recommendations of a Working Committee set up by the TNPCB to investigate the issue, the mercury contaminated waste generated by HLL during 1983-2001, has been exported to the United States of America (USA) in May, 2003 for recovery of mercury and final disposal of the residual waste, with the permission of the Government of India and the Govt. of USA. The TNPCB is closely monitoring the situation including remediation of contaminated sites.