

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6768
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ASBESTOS EXPOSURE
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Dr.T.K.Joshi of the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Hospital has given detailed account of the dangers of Asbestos;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures being taken to save the construction workers from Asbestos exposure?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Dr. T.K.Joshi of Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narayan hospital has expressed his view in an article published in `Indian Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine` that asbestos used in any form and in any manner is carcinogenic with no safe levels of exposure as evidenced by the position taken by a number of international agencies. However, according to Indian Council of Medical Research, there is no convincing evidence that the consumers of asbestos products face any significant risk of cancer.

(c) Various standards have been prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards to ensure safety in handling and use of asbestos and asbestos products. In addition, there are provisions under the Factories Act 1987, Mines Act 1952 and Environment Protection Act 1986 to reduce/control the hazards produced due to asbestos exposure.