

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4959
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010
LEAD CONTENTS IN PAINTS
Tewari Shri Manish

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Quality Council of India has conducted a study on the presence of hazardous substances like lead in the paints;
- (b) if so, the salient findings brought out in this regard alongwith the veracity of the agency which conducted the said study;
- (c) whether the presence of such health hazardous substances in the paints poses a potential threat to the health of children especially their intelligence quotient;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the comments of the Ministry of Health, if any, sought in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure lead free paints in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

- (a): Quality Council of India (QCI) has supported a study undertaken by National Referral Center for Lead Poisoning in India (NRCLPI) on the evaluation of lead content in paints manufactured in India.
- (b): The lead content was found to be up to 35000 ppm in several samples as against the BIS voluntary standard of upper limit of 1000 ppm. There was no labeling to this effect on the containers.
- (c) & (d): This assessment was not part of the study supported by QCI. However, in an independent study conducted by the same organization, it was observed that 51.3% children below 12 years in Indian Metros have their blood lead level above the permissible limit of 10 micro-grams per deci litres ($\text{\AA}\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$) a concentration dangerous enough to reduce IQ by four to six units.
- (e): Government has taken up the matter with the stake holders including paint manufacturers. The Technical Committee of the Bureau of Indian Standards has constituted three Working Groups to review all the published IS specifications in the light of lead restrictions and lead-free clause.