

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6454  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010  
IMPORT OF RADIOACTIVE STEEL SCRAP  
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

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

- (a) whether radioactive steel scrap is being imported in the country which is subsequently used as manufacturing packaging material for heavy duty engineering goods consignments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether his Ministry has taken up the case with the Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Commerce to equip the ports to detect radioactive or contaminated consignments coming into or leaving Indian territory;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) The Ministry has notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 for proper management and handling of hazardous wastes. Import and Export of metal scrap, including steel scrap is regulated under these Rules. However, these Rules do not apply to radioactive wastes as covered under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the rules made there under.

(c)to(e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has set up a coordination Committee comprising of representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Commerce (DGFT), Ministry of Shipping, Central Pollution Control Board, selected State Pollution Control Boards and other experts to improve enforcement of provisions related to import of hazardous waste. The Ministry has requested the Ministry of Finance to ensure stricter vigilance at ports. Further, it has also been requested to constitute a Task Force to conduct frequent inspections at major ports and undertake a time bound program for strengthening laboratories at ports.