

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1519
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009
TOXIC WASTE FROM ALUMINUM REFINERIES IN ORISSA
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

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

- (a) whether seepage of toxic waste from the aluminium refinery in Orissa has come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) According to the Orissa State Pollution Control Board, seepage/leakage of alkaline effluent from various installations of M/s Vedanta Aluminum Ltd. was observed flowing into the Vamsadhara river. The State Board has issued directions under Section 33 (a) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Section 31 (a) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to M/s Vedanta Aluminum Ltd. stipulating specific action points for time bound compliance. Corrective measures have since been taken by the industry resulting in significant improvement in water quality of Vamsadhara river. Presently the water quality parameters are well within the prescribed standards.