

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6843
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2010
MERCURY POLLUTION
Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

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

- (a) whether mercury poses serious threat to medicos' health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the existing waste management system for mercury in the country;
- (c) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences had conducted any survey to assess the awareness about environmental mercury pollution in the health care system;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Union Government to minimize the use of mercury especially in hospitals and to generate the said awareness among the people?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (e): In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, no case of serious threat to medicos' health due to mercury, has been brought to the notice of the Ministry. All the Central government Hospitals follow the guidelines laid down in the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2008.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences has informed that Ministry of Environment & Forests has sanctioned a project entitled "Assessment of Awareness of Environmental Mercury pollution in Healthcare System: Solutions and Strategies for prevention" to the Deptt. of Pharmacology, AIIMS, New Delhi. The project survey covers the NCT of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The survey has been completed in Delhi and partially in the hospitals of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

The interim data analysis shows that the overall awareness regarding the proper use, disposal of mercury containing equipments in the healthcare system needs to be strengthened and amongst healthcare professional, there is a need for creation of awareness about the harmful effects of mercury in environment.