

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5839
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011
PRODUCTION OF ASBESTOS
Suwendu Shri Adhikari

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is giving due importance to the serious health hazards for the production of asbestos;
- (b) if so, whether the asbestos is still being widely used as a material for roofing sheets, flat sheets, cement pipes etc.; and
- (c) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard.

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) & (c): Yes, sir. In view of the deleterious effect of asbestos mining on the health of the workers resulting in diseases like silicosis and pneumoconiosis etc., the Government of India decided in 1986 not to grant any fresh mining lease for asbestos in the country. In 1989, this restriction was extended for leases for other minerals also where asbestos occurrence as associated mineral is in abundance. In June 1993, Government of India decided not to renew the existing mining leases. In addition, the Government has put in place various measures to safeguard the health of employees which, inter alia, include mandatory environmental clearance for investment as per the provisions and procedures under EIA Notification 1994. Also, National Institute of Occupational Health is conducting a study on health and environmental hazards resulting from use of chrysotile variety of asbestos in the country as commissioned by Government of India

(b): Only Chrysotile asbestos is being used as a material for roofing sheets, flat sheets & cement pipes etc. in the country.