

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3607
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2011
CONSUMPTION OF ASBESTOS ADV. A. SAMPATH
Sampath Shri Anirudhan

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

- (a) Whether the use of asbestos has been banned in over 40 countries on the grounds of toxicity but is permitted in India;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;and
- (c) the number of tonnes of asbestos consumed in the country during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Asbestos consists of six varieties, namely Crocidolite, Actinolite, Anthophyllite, Amosite, Tremolite and Chrysotile. Five varieties of Asbestos except Chrysotile have been included in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention and these are not being used in India. However, Chrysotile Asbestos is permitted for use in the country. The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has commissioned a Study to National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad to assess the environmental and health hazards, if any arising from the use of Chrysotile Asbestos in the country. The final report is awaited from NIOH.

(c) The number of tonnes of Chrysotile Asbestos consumed in the country during each of the last three years and the current year are as under:-

Year Consumption of Asbestos

2008 3,00,000 tonnes

2009 3,60,000 tonnes

2010 4,00,000 tonnes

2011 4,15,000 tonnes (approx)