

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7198  
ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012  
BAN ON USE OF ASBESTOS  
Panda Shri Baijayant

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

- (a) whether India is the largest importer of asbestos;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action plan prepared by the Government to stop its import and to ban this in dwelling and occupational sites in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c): As per the information provided by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, no authentic information is available on the quantity of asbestos being imported by countries. Out of the six varieties of asbestos, India imports only Chrysotile asbestos. Import of this item is not banned or restricted in India according to the existing Exim policy.