

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1129
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009
BAN ON SALE OF HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United States of America, Canada and many countries in Europe have banned the sale of hazardous products like asbestos, lead based paint, devices containing mercury;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ban these hazardous products in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b): Manufacture, importation, processing and distribution in commerce of Asbestos was banned in the United States by the Environmental Protection Agency on July 12, 1989. Lead- containing paint and certain consumer products bearing lead-containing paint were banned by the US Consumer Product safety Commission (CPSC) on December, 19, 2008. There is no ban on devices containing mercury. However, the Environmental Protection Agency has issued detailed guidelines for mercury-containing products and alternatives. In addition, the US Food and Drug Administration has issued information and guidance regarding presence of mercury in seafood.

Asbestos (chrysotile asbestos) continues to be exported from Canada.

European Union (EU) has banned the sale of measuring devices containing mercury from 3 April, 2009. Existing legislation already restricts mercury for packaging waste imposes a limit of 100 ppm by weight for the sum of concentration levels of lead, cadmium, mercury and hexavalent chromium. Lead-free directive (also known as Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive or RoHS Directive) also restricts the use of 6 materials including mercury in electrical and electronic products. The maximum permitted concentration is 0.1% or 1000 ppm by weight of homogeneous material. The RoHS Directive was adopted in February 2003 by the European Union and took effect on 1 July, 2006. It restricts the use of the following 6 substances:

1. Lead (Pb)
2. Mercury (Hg)
3. Cadmium (Cd)
4. Hexavalent chromium (Cr6+)
5. Polybrominated biphenyls (PBB)
6. Polybrominated biphenyl ether (PBDE)

In September, 2008, the European Commission adopted legislation banning all exports of mercury from the European Union with effect from March 2011.

Five different forms of Asbestos were banned in the EU in 1991. In 1999 the EU banned the use and import of the sixth form (namely, white asbestos or chrysotile asbestos) in Europe. The ban came into effect from 01 January, 2005.

- (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.