

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3168
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012
USE OF ASBESTOS
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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total asbestos imported by the county from various countries during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that use of asbestos has been banned in some countries;
- (c) If so, the details of such countries and the reasons thereof;
- (d) the names of the States in the Country which have banned the use of asbestos in the Rural Water Supply Schemes and the States which are still using asbestos for this purpose along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the policy of 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) Asbestos consists of six varieties, namely, Crocidolite, Actinolite, Anthophyllite, Amosite, Tremoiite and Chrysotile. The first five varieties of asbestos are not used in the country. Chrysotile variety of asbestos, which is permitted for use in the country, is not banned or restricted for import into India according to the existing Exim policy. As per the information available on the website of Department of Commerce, the quantity of asbestos imported from various countries during 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 (upto December2011) is as under:-

Quantity in Thousands (kg)

Year Quantity

2008-09	346.657.46
2009-10	331,413.87
2010-11	365,793.64
2011-12	276,54548
(upto December- 2011)	

The quantity of asbestos, imported from five leading countries, is as under:-

Quantity in Thousands (kg)

Country	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
(upto December- 2011)				

RUSSIA	157,839.27	152,448.23	178,478.63	135,756.98
CANADA	68,433.21	70,934.47	58,051.81	25,160.15
BRAZIL	56,161.93	57,426.53	55,413.56	33,084.37
KAZAKHSTAN	53,745.77	45,223.50	51,844.21	46,224.81
ZIMBABWE	5,214.55	3,048.67	170.00	-

(b) and (c) Import of chrysotile variety of asbestos is not banned or restricted in India according to the existing Exim policy. This Department is not in possession of any information pertaining to details of countries having banned the use of asbestos.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the nodal department in this regard, has informed that it does not maintain any data regarding the use of asbestos in the Rural Water Supply Schemes. Further, no specific policy exists in the matter.