

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4304

ANSWERED ON:06.09.2012

BAN ON PRODUCTION OF ASBESTOS

Pradhan Shri Nityananda;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of environmental hazards due to asbestos;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has not taken action for banning of asbestos in India due to its adverse effects on environment and ecology of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether till May, 2012, 55 countries of the world have banned it completely;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether due to pressure from asbestos manufacturing and marketing companies the Government is hesitating to ban it;
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the time by which the ban is likely to be made on the use of asbestos?

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),(b) & (c) Asbestos consists of six varieties, namely, Crocidolite, Actinolite, Anthophyllite, Amosite, Tremolite and Chrysotile. The first five varieties of asbestos are not used in the country. Chrysotile variety of asbestos is permitted for use in the country.

India is a signatory to the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. Annex III of the Convention lists industrial chemicals and pesticides that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by Parties to the Convention. Of the six varieties of asbestos, Chrysotile variety has not been listed in Annex III. However, in order to assess the environmental and health hazards, if any, arising from the use of Chrysotile asbestos in the country, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has commissioned a study to National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad. The final report on the said study has been received from NIOH and the findings of the Report are being considered.

(d) & (e) This Department is not in possession of any information pertaining to details of countries having banned the use of asbestos.

(f) & (g) No, Sir.

(h) India is a signatory to the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. Chrysotile variety of asbestos has not been listed in Annex III of the Convention. The use of Chrysotile asbestos is not banned in India.