

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1717
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009
HEALTH HAZARDERS IN SHIP BREAKING INDUSTRY
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is one of the biggest ship breaking industry in the world;
- (b) if so, whether this project is throwing up a potential environment disaster to workers employed in this industry; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the preventive measures taken by the Government to safeguard the health of such workers/labourers?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c): No, Madam. As per the available information adequate safety precautions are being taken in the ship breaking yards. Further the following preventive measures have been taken by the Government to safeguard the health of workers in ship breaking industry:-

(i) Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) have been identified for different operations carried out in ship breaking yards.

(ii) Government of Gujarat has notified Rule 68-H under the Gujarat State Factory Rules pertaining to Ship Building, Ship repairing and Ship Breaking. It has also established a separate Inspectorate of Factories at Alang headed by the Deputy Director for exclusive enforcement of the relevant provisions of the rules in Ship Breaking Yards. The competent persons are also declared by the Chief Inspector of Factories for the purposes of issuing certificate like Naked Light Testing and examinations of pressure vessels and lifting appliances etc. As a result of Inspection and monitoring by Inspector of Factories, some of the practices being followed in Alang include wet method for removal of asbestos, hot work certification and use of personal protective equipment.

(iii) Workers engaged in removal of asbestos are regularly medically examined by doctors.