

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6211
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013
POLLUTION BY LEATHER TANNERIES
Mahato Shri Narahari

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the relevant environment laws and by-laws for criminal action to be taken against owners of polluting leather tanneries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to clean up areas affected by arsenic and lead poisoning by the untreated effluents released illegally by leather tanning units; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)to(d) As informed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), there is no proposal under consideration at present to amend the environment laws to enable criminal action against owners of polluting industries, including tanneries. There are already provisions existing under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for taking criminal action against the defaulting leather industries. Further, a National Green Tribunal has been constituted before which complaints can be filed for matters relating to environmental protection and compensation can be claimed. As reported, the leather tanning unit's effluent characteristically does not contribute to arsenic and lead pollution.