

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1277  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013  
BAN ON USE OF ASBESTOS  
Abdulrahman Shri ;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

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

- (a) Whether the Indian asbestos market has grown considerably during the past many years;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether the Government has made any study regarding the health hazard of this material;
- (d) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) Whether the use of asbestos has been banned in many countries due to its serious health- related dangers; and
- (f) If so, the names of countries and the steps taken by the Government to ban the use of this material in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) and (b): 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, 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 Chrysotile asbestos imported from various countries during 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 is as under:-

Quantity in Tonnes	
Year	Quantity
2008-09	3,46,031
2009-10	3,30,104
2010-11	3,53,440
2011-12	3,77,339
2012-13	4,58,567

(c) and (d): 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 report on the said study has been received from NIOH.

(e): This Department is not in possession of any information pertaining to details of countries which have banned the use of asbestos.

(f) The findings of the NIOH Report indicate no significant health hazards and environmental hazards arising from the use of Chrysotile variety of asbestos in the country.