

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4792

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2009

METAL CONTENT IN TOYS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Government/Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on the ill effect of metal content in toys on health;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) and (b): A non-governmental organization namely Toxics Link conducted a study in 2006 in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai and reported presence of high levels of cadmium and lead in PVC used in soft toys. Lead is known neuro and haematological toxin and may lead to delayed development and lower Intelligence Quotient in children. Cadmium affects the kidney.

(c): The Ministry of health and Family Welfare has constituted an expert Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Y. K. Gupta, Professor of Bi-chemistry of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi to look into the presence of harmful elements in toys. Under the guidance of the Committee, a study for examining the presence of some heavy metals and phalates in the plastic toys in the market, is underway.