

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4951
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014
IMPACT OF MERCURY ON ENVIRONMENT
Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the extensive use of highly toxic mercury in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the ill-effects of mercury on human health and environment in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has signed the Minamata Convention, a global treaty to protect human health and environment from the adverse effects of mercury; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (f) An Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) was set up by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on recognizing the ill-effects of mercury on human health and environment. INC in its 5th meeting in January, 2013 agreed on the text of Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury, known as Minamata Convention on Mercury which has been signed by India in September, 2014. No study has been undertaken by the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to establish ill-effects of mercury on human health or environment.