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Title: Need to take steps to ensure quality and standards in manufacturing of paints and cosmetics as per the norms fixed by Bureau of Indian Standards.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY (MATHURA): Studies by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) have revealed alarming levels of lead content in the paints sold in the country. Sustained exposure to lead can cause severe damage to any person's nervous system and is a life threatening health hazard in the case of children.

The lack of regulatory framework to address this contamination is also distressing. The voluntary limit according to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is 1000 ppm. While in developed countries the regulatory limit is on an average around 600 ppm, the EU had totally banned lead content in paint way back in 1988. A majority of the samples in CSE's studies were found to have exceeded the voluntary BIS limit. Consumer Education and Research Society (CERS) has also found lead content in women's cosmetics. Chemical exposure in our everyday life has reached a level that is impacting our standard of life and also the future generations.

I demand an inquiry on violation of established limits by paint and cosmetics manufacturers and changes in standards and policy that will help contain this menace.