

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1274
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2017

Environmental Clearance to Asbestos based Factories

1274. SHRI PONGULETI SRINIVASA REDDY:
DR. GOKARAJU GANGA RAJU:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to prohibit the use of asbestos based products to safeguard public health in the wake of recent estimate that asbestos is causing millions of occupational deaths globally every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to prepare a register of asbestos exposed persons and asbestos laden buildings and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to stop granting environmental clearance to asbestos based factories across the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any compensation package for the victims of asbestos exposure has been announced and if so, the details thereof along with the other remedial measures taken by the Government to save people from exposure to hazardous asbestos?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) & (b) White Asbestos is used for various purposes viz. asbestos cement pipes, roofing of households, asbestos based manufacturing products like brake linings etc. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the revised emission standards for asbestos based products manufacturing industries in March, 2006. These standards are being enforced through respective State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees.

In order to assess the environmental and health hazards, arising from the use of Chrysotile asbestos in the country, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers had commissioned a study titled "Study of Health hazards/Environmental hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile variety of Asbestos in the Country" through National Institute of Occupational Health (ICMR-NIOH), Ahmedabad. The report submitted by NIOH was assessed by an Inter Ministerial Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals to consider the findings of the NIOH study report. The NIOH report does not indicate any significant health/environment hazards resulting from the use of Chrysotile asbestos under normal conditions, coupled with the fact that wet process being followed by most of the asbestos products

manufacturing units in the country apart from its cost effectiveness and extensive use by the masses.

- (c) No sir.
- (d) There is no proposal to stop granting the environmental clearance to the asbestos based factories across the country.
- (e) The matter of compensation for workers in the country is determined by relevant rules and regulations, as applicable such as The Workmen's Compensation Act 1923, The Factories Act 1948, The Mines Act, 1952 etc.
