

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2467
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2018

Minamata Convention on Mercury

2467. SHRI SUMAN BALKA:
SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has approved proposal for ratification of Minamata Convention on Mercury and depositing instrument of ratification enabling India to become Party of Convention and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether this is to protect human health and environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has launched Green Good Deeds campaign to sensitize people and students, in particular about climate change and global warming and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the campaign aims to broad its base with involvement of teachers, students and other voluntary organizations to combat climate change; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for :- (i) Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and depositing the instrument of ratification with the designated authority enabling Republic of India to become a Party to the Convention; (ii) Seeking exemption as provided under Article 6 of the Convention for a period of five years after expiry of phase-out dates for the processes/products as specified in Annex A & B of the Convention; and (iii) To retain the flexibility for acceptance of any amendment to the Convention text and its annexes. The Minamata Convention is a global treaty to protect human health and environment from adverse effects of mercury and its compounds.
- (c) to (e) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has initiated Green Good Deeds (GGDs) campaign in order to sensitize and make the citizens aware about environmental issues. The GGDs cover all the aspects of environment conservation viz. biodiversity, wildlife, water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, renewable energy, conservation of lakes and rivers, solid waste management including climate change and global warming etc. The Ministry has also shared the relevant GGDs with all State Nodal Agencies for implementation of Eco-club programme of Ministry, located in each of the States/Union Territories with a request to get the GGDs implemented in nearly 90,000 Eco-clubs, which implements various environmental awareness programmes for school children, college students, and teachers. The Ministry had also organized Clean Air for Delhi Campaign from February 10-23, 2018 wherein GGDs were publicized through radio, video and print media.
