

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2777
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2018

Use of PVC Pipes in Households

2777. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:

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

- (a) whether any study has been conducted to find out effects of use of Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) pipes containing lead in households and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details regarding hazardous effects on humans on account of consumption of water through PVC pipes containing lead; and
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to lay down standards for use of lead in Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) pipes and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Toxic effects of lead and their major sources are well established through several studies. According to reports published by the World Health Organization, presence of lead in tap water is mainly due to household plumbing systems which include Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipes, fittings, etc. that contain lead.

With regard to hazardous effects on humans on account of consumption of water through PVC pipes containing lead, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has not undertaken any such study. Information from literature available indicate that lead exposure may cause anaemia, headache, irritability, lethargy, etc.

(c) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has already considered the effects of leaching of lead from PVC pipes on water quality and has laid down the Indian Standards for various types of PVC pipes for water supply like unplasticized PVC pipes for potable water supplies, chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC) pipes for potable hot and cold water distribution supplies, etc. These Standards prescribe a test for effect on water, giving permissible limits of, *inter alia*, lead (first extraction) and lead (third extraction).
