

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.26
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.04.2016

Impact of Microbeads on Environment

26. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:

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

- (a) whether all leading brands including herbal brands are reportedly using microbeads for manufacturing soap, toothpaste and other products causing adverse impact on environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the National Green Tribunal has issued notices to the Ministries of Environment, Forests and Climate Change; Water Resources and Health and Family Welfare seeking their comments on the use of microbeads in personal care products;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the response thereon; and
- (e) the other corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)&(b) According to the Central Drug Standards Control Organization, it has not received any report of adverse impact on environment regarding use of microbeads for manufacturing soap, toothpaste and other products. However, existing regulations under Schedule S of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, prescribe that Cosmetics in finished form shall conform to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications laid down from time to time by the BIS. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not commissioned any study to ascertain the extent and type of microbeads being used for manufacturing soap, toothpaste and other products and their impact on environment.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The National Green Tribunal (NGT) in the matter of O.A. No.112/2016, Ashwini Kumar Vs Union of India & Others, issued notices to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare seeking responses. The Ministry has already initiated action to file reply to the NGT.

(e) Since no study has been carried out on the matter, no corrective steps have been taken.
