

RAJYA SABHA QUESTIONS

ON

ASBESTOS

(2001 – 2009)

THE ASBESTOS CEMENT PRODUCTS
MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

502, Mansarover,
90, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
E-mail : acpna@sify.com
Tel. : 011-46521495

February, 2010

Preface

Of late asbestos and asbestos-based products have been generating lot of interest in the society. Certain NGOs, activists and various competitive interests both in the country and abroad have been campaigning against asbestos without caring to look at the truth and current facts.

There are several scientific studies concerning asbestos usage, its effects on health and the environment. These studies have generally come to the conclusion that use of asbestos (Chrysotile variety) in the manufacture of Asbestos-based products under controlled conditions is entirely safe for human health and environment. Likewise, studies have concluded that people residing under asbestos cement roofs are not subjected to any health risks. It is quite safe if asbestos products are processed and manufactured under controlled conditions. These studies have similarly arrived at same conclusions about usage of its products.

On these issues, questions are asked in Parliament in every session seeking answers from various Ministries/Departments. The Asbestos Cement Products Manufacturers' Association has compiled these questions which have been asked by MPs and their replies as given by the concerned Ministries in the form of a booklet. The booklet covers the period from year 2000 to 2009.

We hope this booklet will be helpful in understanding the current thinking and policies of the Government of India on asbestos and related issues.

New Delhi
February, 2010

ACPMA

Index

Q. No.	Date	Ministry	Name of Hon'ble M.P.	Subject	Page No.
871	02.03.2001	Environment & Forests	Rajnath Singh Surya	Ban on ASBESTOS	3
662	27.07.2001	Environment & Forests	R.S. Gavai	Health Hazards of ASBESTOS	4
839	26.02.2003	Mines	Bimba Raikar	Lifting of Ban on ASBESTOS Mining	5
3053	10.04.2003	Labour	Ramachandra Khuntia	Workers Engaged in ASBESTOS Cement Products	6-7
2741	18.08.2003	Health & Family Welfare	Manoj Bhattacharya	Ill Effects of Exposure to ASBESTOS	7-8
537	16.07.2004	Environment & Forests	Vanga Geetha	Ban on White ASBESTOS	9
5479	13.05.2005	Environment & Forests	Ekanath K. Thakur	Ship For Scrap Carrying Carcinogenic ASBESTOS Insulation	10-11
1294	05.12.2005	Mines	Santosh Bagrodia	Health Hazards In ASBESTOS Mining	11-12
2058	12.12.2005	Mines	N. P. Durga	Import and Production of ASBESTOS	12-14
3448	17.05.2006	Labour and Employment	Ekanath K. Thakur	Threat of ASBESTOS is to Workers	15-16
101	31.07.2006	Mines	Dr. Narayan Singh Manaklao	Health Hazards of ASBESTOS Mining	16-17

Q. No.	Date	Ministry	Name of Hon'ble M.P.	Subject	Page No.
482	02.03.2007	Environment & Forests	Tarini Kanta Roy	Emission Limit for ASBESTOS Fibre	18-19
4032	11.05.2007	Environment & Forests	Tarini Kanta Roy	Use of ASBESTOS	19-20
307	20.03.2008	Environment & Forests	B. K. Hariprasad	ASBESTOS Factories	21-22
3957	30.04.2008	Labour & Employment	Ramachandra Khuntia	ASBESTOS Factories and Mines in The Country	22-28
200	15.12.2008	Mines	Dr. Prabha Thakur	Health Hazards in ASBESTOS Mining	29-30
2743	29.07.2009	Commerce & Industry		Import of White ASBESTOS	31

Rajya Sabha Questions during 2001

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 871 ANSWERED ON 02.03.2001

BAN ON ASBESTOS

871, SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA

- (a) whether the use of asbestos has been banned in India due to its processing being a polluting activity;
- (b) if so, what is the reaction of the people from asbestos industry;
- (c) whether there has been any alternative provided to the people using asbestos sheets; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) (c) & (d) Does not arise.

HEALTH HAZARDS OF ASBESTOS

662, SHRI R.S. GAVAI

- (a) whether Government are considering to ban all activities associated with asbestos, including its mining, manufacturing, use and trade, on account of the health hazards;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government have received a request for ban on asbestos from environmentalists and doctors;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

- (a) & (b) No Sir. However, mining, manufacture of asbestos and asbestos-based products is regulated as per the provisions and procedures of EIA Notification, 1994. Crocidolite (Blue Asbestos) has been put in the restricted list of imports by Ministry of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade in October, 1994. Further, import of waste asbestos (dust and fibre) has been prohibited by Gazette Notification dated 13.10.1998.
- (c) to (e) As per the reports available, no such request from environmentalists and doctors have been received.

Rajya Sabha Questions during 2003

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 839 ANSWERED ON 26.02.2003

LIFTING OF BAN ON ASBESTOS MINING

839, SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR

- (a) whether mining of asbestos is banned presently in India on health grounds;
- (b) if so, whether Government are aware that some countries have lifted the ban on asbestos mining after research reports established that asbestos did not affect the health of miners;
- (c) if so, whether the lease holders of asbestos mines in Rajasthan have sought lifting of the ban on asbestos mining; and
- (d) if so, the Centre's reaction thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

- (a) Grant of fresh mining leases and renewal of existing mining leases for asbestos are presently banned in India on health grounds.
- (b) No, the Central Government are not aware of some countries having lifted ban on asbestos mining.
- (c) & (d) Asbestos mines owners of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have represented before the Central Government to allow grant of

fresh/ renewal of asbestos mining leases in the country. Government have not lifted ban on grant of fresh/renewal of mining leases for asbestos in the country.

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3053 ANSWERED ON 10.04.2003

WORKERS ENGAGED IN ASBESTOS CEMENT PRODUCTS

3053, SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA

- (a) whether Government have taken note of a recent survey, conducted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which states that asbestos is responsible for death of a lakh of workers annually across the world;
- (b) if so, the number of workers at present engaged in manufacturing of asbestos cement products in the country; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for protection of workers at workplace from exposure to asbestos?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL)

- (a) The Government have not received any such report from International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- (b) As per the details collected by Labour Bureau, Shimla about 8321 workers are engaged in the manufacture of asbestos cement and

other cement products.

- (c) The manufacture, handling and processing of asbestos and its product has been brought under the category of hazardous processes as given in the First Schedule under the Factories Act, 1948 and thus the provisions under Chapter IV-A of the Factories Act relating to hazardous processes become applicable to this class of industry.

The State Governments have framed rules under Section 87 and Schedule on Handling and Processing of Asbestos, Manufacture of any Article of Asbestos and any other process of manufacture or otherwise in which asbestos is used in any form has been notified by them on the basis of Model Rules prepared by Directorate General, Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI).

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2741 ANSWERED ON 18.08.2003

ILL EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS

2741, SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA

- (a) whether Government are aware that exposure to asbestos dust scar lung tissue, trigger cancer and cause pleural diseases;
- (b) if so, whether any empirical study has been made in the matter amongst the labour employed in asbestos companies;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the curative and corrective measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d) The World Health Organisation (WHO) is of the view that persons engaged in asbestos mining are at risk of having cancer. Studies done by the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad have shown that long term exposure to any type of asbestos can lead to development of asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma.

Various standards have been prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to ensure safety in handling and use of Asbestos and Asbestos products. In addition there are provisions under the Factories (Amendment) Act 1987, Mines Act, 1952 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 to reduce/control the hazards produced due to Asbestos exposure.

Rajya Sabha Questions during 2004

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 537 ANSWERED ON 16.07.2004

BAN ON WHITE ASBESTOS

537, SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA

- (a) whether many organisations have demanded ban on white asbestos in the country causing lung cancer; and
- (b) if so, the action proposed to ban use of white asbestos to make the environment free from pollution?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the non-governmental organisations have been campaigning for total ban on asbestos in the country causing lung cancer.
- (b) As no scientific study establishing that the use of white asbestos causing lung cancer is available, it is not considered as desirable to ban the use of white asbestos.

Rajya Sabha Questions during 2005

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 5479 ANSWERED ON 13.05.2005

SHIP FOR SCRAP CARRYING CARCINOGENIC ASBESTOS INSULATION

5479, SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Danish Government have alerted India about a toxic ship-for-scrap carrying carcinogenic asbestos insulation headed for Alang yard in Gujarat;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Danish Government have requested Indian Government to declare the ship as illegal traffic and refuse to allow it to be dumped in India; and
- (c) if so, the action proposed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) to (c) The Danish Government have informed the Indian Government regarding arrival of a ship in India for dismantling carrying asbestos which is used as insulation of the machinery. It has also been mentioned that as per the Danish legislation on wastes, the said ship is characterized as waste.

The ship was beached at Alang on 3.4.2005. The officers from Customs, Gujarat Maritime Board, Central Pollution Control Board and Gujarat Pollution Control Board have verified and found that there is no hazardous waste on board of the ship.

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1294 ANSWERED ON 05.12.2005

HEALTH HAZARDS IN ASBESTOS MINING

1294, SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA

HARISH RAWAT

- (a) whether it is fact that Indian Bureau of Mines has conducted a study on the health hazards for asbestos mine workers of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the findings thereof and whether the study recommended for lifting of ban on asbestos leasing;
- (c) whether Government have an intention to implement these suggestions and lifting ban on leasing and renewal of leases of asbestos mining; and
- (d) if so, by when?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (d) In 1998, Ministry of Mines had approved a S&T Project titled ‘

Study of Pollution Level in Asbestos Mines and processing plants in Rajasthan' to be undertaken by Indian Bureau of Mines(IBM), a subordinate office of the Ministry to assess the feasibility of lifting the ban on expansion of asbestos mining through a scientific study of pollution level in asbestos mines and processing plants in Rajasthan and in Andhra Pradesh and to suggest appropriate mitigation measures. The Study recommended that the ban imposed on grant and renewal of mining leases and expansion of mining may be lifted subject to control of pollution level in work environment of various operations and other remedial measures.

Recommendations of the Study have been examined in consultation with all Stake holders. Some stake holders have suggested that asbestos mining can be permitted with appropriate safeguards. IBM in consultation with Central Pollution Control Board has been asked to work out these safeguards. At present the ban on mining of asbestos has not been lifted.

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2058 ANSWERED ON 12.12.2005

IMPORT AND PRODUCTION OF ASBESTOS

2058, SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA

- (a) the details of the chrysolite Asbestos imported during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the details of the chrysolite Asbestos production in the country during the last three years, year wise and State-wise;

- (c) whether it is a fact that chrysolite Asbestos mining has been banned in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof of the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the permissible international norms for dust pollution in chrysolite Asbestos mining?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

- (a) The details are given below:

(in tonnes)

2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005 (Provisional)
76,1431,34,931	1,36,016	

- (b) The details are given below:

(in tonnes)

State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-05 (Provisional)
Andhra Pradesh	857	849	795
Rajasthan	0	0	0
Total	857	849	795

- (c) &(d) In view of the deleterious effect of asbestos mining on the health of the workers, the government have ordered the State governments in 1986 not to grant any new mining lease for asbestos(including chrysotile variety) in the country. In June 1993, government further stopped the renewal of existing mining leases of asbestos in the country.

- (e) As per information available, the permissible international norms for exposure to chrysotile, is 0.1 fiber per cubic centimeter for a worker on an eight hour time weighted average value.

Rajya Sabha Questions during 2006

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3448 ANSWERED ON 17.05.2006

THREAT OF ASBESTOSIS TO WORKERS

3448, SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the threat of asbestosis looms large over the workers working in Alang shipbreaking yard;
- (b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the ship containing asbestos, an environmentally hazardous substances which causes a chronic lung ailment asbestosis to those who are exposed to it besides polluting the environment; and
- (c) if so, whether Government have made any investigations to find out whether the shipbreaking industry adheres to safety and environmental norms?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

- (a) & (b) Ships that come for breaking may contain asbestos as insulation material. Asbestosis is caused due to air borne asbestos only. This air-borne asbestos, if beyond the permissible limit, may cause asbestosis.

- (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests have constituted a Committee of Technical Experts to examine issues relating to ship breaking. The Committee has started its work.

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 101 ANSWERED ON 31.07.2006

HEALTH HAZARDS OF ASBESTOS MINING

101, DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO

HARISH RAWAT

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Bureau of Mines has conducted study on the health hazards of asbestos mines workers of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the recommendations thereof;
- (c) whether the study recommended for lifting of ban on asbestos leasing; and
- (d) if so, the details of action taken/proposed to be taken to implement these recommendations including the time-frame for implementation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO.

101 FOR 31.7.2006 ASKED BY DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO AND SHRI HARISH RAWAT REGARDING HEALTH HAZARDS OF ASBESTOS MINING.

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b)&(c) The Study recommended that the ban imposed on grant and renewal of mining leases and expansion of mining may be lifted subject to control of pollution level in work environment of various operations and other remedial measures.
- (d) The proposal of amending Regulation 124 of Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961 by way of reducing permissible limit of airborne respirable asbestos fibre dust from 2 to 0.1- 0.5 per millilitre of air is under consideration in consultation with Directorate General, Mines Safety(DGMS) .

Rajya Sabha Questions during 2007

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 482 ANSWERED ON 02.03.2007

EMISSION LIMIT FOR ASBESTOS FIBRE

482, SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY

- (a) whether there is any proposal to introduce emission limit for emission of asbestos fibre for all sorts of asbestos manufacturing units;
- (b) if so, details of the proposal; and
- (c) the time limit for implementing the proposal?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) to (c) The emission standards for asbestos fibre from asbestos based products manufacturing industries have already been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The list of pollutants with respective emission limits is annexed. These standards are implemented by the respective State Pollution Control Boards/U.T. Pollution Control Committees in their area of jurisdiction. Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question no.482 to be answered on 2nd March, 2007 on Emission Limit for Asbestos Fibre.

Industry Pollutants Emission Limit All types of asbestos manufacturing units (including all processes involving the use of asbestos) Pure asbestos material 0.2 fibre /cc Total Dust 2 mg/ Nm³

Fibre of length more than 5 micrometer and diameter less than 3 micrometre with an aspect ratio of 3 or more.

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4032 ANSWERED ON 11.05.2007

USE OF ASBESTOS

4032, SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY

to answer to Unstarred Question 482 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 2007 and state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of countries has banned the use of asbestos for health hazards; and
- (b) if so, why India is not following the same principle.

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) Some countries have banned the use of asbestos for health hazards.
- (b) In India, mining of asbestos is banned for reasons of health hazards. Further use of all varieties of asbestos except chrysotile variety is

restricted for impact on health reasons. Presently only the chrysotile variety of asbestos is used in India in the manufacture of A.C. pressure-pipes, asbestos cement sheets, brake-linings etc. The asbestos fibre levels are below the prescribed National and International norms and the health hazards of use of chrysotile asbestos are yet to be proved.

The Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals have sponsored a study to the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad to study the impact of Health and Environmental Hazards resulting from use of Chrysotile asbestos by the Indian industry.

Rajya Sabha Questions during 2008

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 307 ANSWERED ON 20.03.2008

ASBESTOS FACTORIES

307, SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD

- (a) whether Government has recently conducted a study through the National Institute of Occupational Health to assess the extent of betterment in the working conditions in the Asbestos factories all over the country;
- (b) if so, a summary of the findings of the study;
- (c) whether the asbestos industry in the private sector had contributed funds for the conduct of the study in addition to the allocation made by Government; and
- (d) whether Government is likely to present this report, finalized in consultation with asbestos industry, at the Chemical Review Committee of the UN at Rotterdam in March, 2008 to rationalize its third veto against UN sanctions on asbestos industry?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad has been entrusted with a study on environmental and health impacts of the usages of Chrysotile Asbestos with an objective to find out the concentration of

asbestos fibres in the work zone and to assess the health status of the workers and the residents in the vicinity of the industry. The study is in progress in major Asbestos based products manufacturing units located in Kolkata, Silvasa, Vapi and Hyderabad.

- (c) Out of a total of Rs. 59.66 lacs allocated for the study by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, the Asbestos Cement Products Manufactures Association has contributed Rs. 16 lacs.
- (d) Since the NIOH study is still under progress, no report was presented before the Chemical Review Committee of Rotterdam Convention held at Geneva during March, 10-13,2008.

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3957 ANSWERED ON 30.04.2008

ASBESTOS FACTORIES AND MINES IN THE COUNTRY

3957, SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA

- (a) whether asbestos is dangerous for the health and how many asbestos factories and mines operating in the country and the number of workers are working there;
- (b) whether Government is also importing asbestos; if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any plan completely ban asbestos; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

- (a) Yes, Sir, prolonged exposure to asbestos is dangerous for the health. The State-wise information on number of asbestos factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948 and the workers employed therein is enclosed at Annexure-I. Only 2 asbestos mines are working in the country, with average daily employment of 50 persons.
- (b) Yes, Sir, Government is importing asbestos. Country-wise details is enclosed at Annexure-II.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) In view of 'c' above, does not arise.

ANNEXURE – I

INFORMATION OF NUMBER OF ASBESTOS MANUFACTURING UNITS IN DIFFERENT STATES/UTs OF INDIA

As on : December, 2006

S. No.	State/Uts	No. of Units	No. of Workers
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil	-NA-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7	1889
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	-NA-
4.	Assam	2	45

5	Bihar	Nil	-NA-
6.	Chandigarh	Nil	-NA-
7.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	-NA-
8.	Daman & Diu & Dadra& Nagar Haveli	Nil	-NA-
9.	Delhi	6	231
10	Goa	Nil	-NA-
11.	Gujarat	13	789
12	Haryana	19	1300
13	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	-NA-
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	-NA-
15.	Jharkhand	2	153
16	Karnataka	2	370
17	Kerala	1	200
18	Lakshadweep	Nil	-NA-
19.	Madhya Pradesh	11	610
20	Maharashtra	24	1338
21	Manipur	Nil	-NA-
22.	Meghalaya	Nil	-NA-
23.	Mizoram	Nil	-NA-
24.	Nagaland	Nil	-NA-
25.	Orissa	1	477
26	Puducherry	Nil	-NA-
27.	Punjab	Nil	-NA-
28.	Rajasthan	5	61

29	Sikkim	Nil	-NA-
30.	Tamil Nadu	8	1677
31	Tripura	Nil	-NA-
32.	Uttar Pradesh	11	711
33	Uttarakhand	Nil	-NA-
34.	West Bengal	9	1200

ANNEXURE - II

252400 ASBESTOS

IMPORT

S. No	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs					Quantity in thousand Kgs					
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Apr.-Aug.,07)	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Apr.-Aug.,07)			
1	AFGHANISTAN TIS		11.86				72					
2	AUSTRALIA			50.89					337			
3	BELGIUM			117.47					764			
4	BRAZIL	4681.58	6236.62	9486.18	6653.57	25552.58	29882.65	37702.85				32577
5	CANADA	7881.93	6406.91	10689.75	5045.11	44893.63	33489.53	50244.29				25416.58
6	CHINA P RP	12.76	0.10	57.55	7.83	97	0.15	121				33
7	DOMINICA	8.56				36						
8	GREECE	218.36				2159.4						
9	ITALY	50.83				392						

10	JAPAN		0.04						0.25		
11	JORDAN			22.26						108	
12	KAZAKHISTAN	2663.51	2538.78	4597.78	1127.71	19446.33		16846.18	26814.81	6240	
13	KENYA	15.92				100					
14	MALAYSIA	3.23				16					
15	MOZAMBIQUE		17.74	70.57	48.72			108	342	252	
16	POLAND	73.51	41.68	422.92	80.06	570.38		327.4	2384	419	
17	RUSSIA	9567.34	18175.29	18107.03	10113.77	72123		114029.83	95939.12	58058.53	
18	SAUDI ARAB	2.39									
19	SOUTH AFRICA	424.44	519.67	971.62	300.55	2386		2577	4512	1551	
20	SWITZERLAND	5.51				35					
21	SRI LANKA DSR			52.49					270		
22	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES			2.71						20	
23	UNITED KINGDOM		30.41	10.22				144	40		

24	UKRAINE	65.96			83.12	519				607
25	U.S.A.		9.34	79.97			58		520	
26	ZAMBIA		149.14	49.16			714		194	
27	ZIMBABWE	1313.6	7361.7	7122.72	2621.88	8016.22	38244.61		33069.2	14096.25
28	UNSPECIFIED	184.12			65.84	887.92				300
	TOTAL	27173.54	41499.27	51911.29	26148.16	177252.46	236493.6		253382.27	1399550.36

HEALTH HAZARDS IN ASBESTOS MINING

200, DR. PRABHA THAKUR

KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Bureau of Mines has conducted a study on the effect on the health of labourers engaged in asbestos mining;
- (b) if so, whether this study has made any suggestions;
- (c) whether the study group has suggested doing away with the restrictions on asbestos mining;
- (d) whether Government proposes to implement them;
- (e) whether Government would lift the ban on new leases for asbestos mining and their renewal; and
- (f) if so, by when?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

- (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 200 FOR 15.12.2008 ASKED BY DR. PRABHA THAKUR AND SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI REGARDING HEALTH HAZARDS IN ASBESTOS MINING.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The Study recommended imposition of safeguards on pollution level in work environment and other remedial measures subject to which the ban imposed on grant and renewal of mining leases and expansion of mining may be lifted.

(d) to (f) Recommendations of the Study have been examined in consultation with all stake holders. Some stake holders have suggested that asbestos mining can be permitted with appropriate safeguards. At present the ban on mining of asbestos has not been lifted.

Rajya Sabha Questions during 2009

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2743 ANSWERED ON 29.07.2009

IMPORT OF WHITE ASBESTOS

2743, SHRI O.T. LEPCHA

- (a) whether it is a fact that white asbestos is being imported in the country in a big way as the mining of white asbestos has been banned;
- (b) if so, the quality of white asbestos imported during last three years;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that WHO and AIIMS have declared that white asbestos is carcinogenic; and
- (d) if so, reasons for the large scale imports leading to jeopardizing health of the people?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

- (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

