

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5546
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2000
LEAD POISON
KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any study made by the George Foundation has revealed that over 50% of children below 12 years have elevated level of lead in their blood;
- (b) if so, whether this lead poisoning causes neurological damages;
- (c) if so, the causes responsible for lead poisoning; and
- (d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent lead poisoning cases in the country especially in Karnataka?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The major cause of lead exposure is exhaust emission from vehicle using leaded gasoline. Other causes of lead exposure are Industries involving the use of lead such as lead acid batteries, radiators, secondary smelting units, potteries, painting, idol making, jewellery making etc.

(d) In pursuance of the need for reduction of environmental pollution due to emission from vehicles, from April, 1995 the oil companies started supplying unleaded petrol in Agra city and the four metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and radial routes emanating from these metros. Petrol with reduced lead content of 0.15 g/lit (maximum) was made available all over the country from December, 1996. Availability of unleaded petrol was extended to the Capitals of the State and Union Territories by June 1998 and to the entire country (including Karnataka) from 1.2.2000.