

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:215
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
IMPORT AND USE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE
CHARAN DAS MAHANT

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has banned the import of wastes containing mercury, cyanide and arsenic;
- (b) if so, whether despite ban on the import of wastes it is being continuously in use in the country; and
- (c) if so, the concrete steps the Government propose to take to ensure ban on import and use of hazardous wastes in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c) As per information available, no hazardous wastes containing mercury, arsenic and cyanide are in use in the country. In the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Amendment Rules notified under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, twenty nine hazardous wastes including mercury, arsenic and cyanide wastes have been banned for import and export. A number of concrete steps have been taken by way of development of guidelines, strengthening & capacity building of the State Pollution Control Boards and creation of awareness among all stake-holders to ensure effective implementation of the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules.