

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:705  
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004  
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON POISONOUS CHEMICALS  
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

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

- (a) whether India has not joined the International Convention on banning use of twelve poisonous chemicals;
- (b) If so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any measures have been initiated towards phasing out PCBs in the country;
- (d) If so, the details thereof; and
- (e) If not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) India has signed the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) on 14th May ,2002 . However, India has not ratified the Convention yet as the future implications of becoming a party to the convention have not been fully worked out.

(c) PCBs are not produced in India and import-exports are no longer permitted. However, PCBs are released to the atmosphere during burning of wastes, paper, plastics and paints.

(d) Various initiatives and legislative measures have been taken for phasing out PCBs. These include:

- A project on Enabling Activities to identify the requirements for developing a National Implementation Plan for POPs chemicals has been initiated.
- Import and export of the wastes, substances and articles containing , consisting of or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls are prohibited under the provisions of the Hazardous Wastes ( Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2003
- Incineration of plastics and wastes treated with chlorinated disinfectants are not permitted under the Biomedical Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998.

(e) Does not arise.