

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3361
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2006
SAFETY STANDARDS FOR VILLAGE DWELLERS
Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the action proposed to stop villagers replacing thatched roofs with asbestos sheets causing irreversible damage on account of carcinogenic asbestos dust inhalation;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to monitor safety standards for village dwellers also; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) to (c) As per the Guidelines of Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), the beneficiaries have complete freedom as to the manner of construction of the house and no specific design has been prescribed for the construction of dwelling units, except that the plinth area of the house should not be less than 20 sq. mts. The beneficiary himself / herself may like to construct the house by utilizing local cost effective materials, environment friendly technologies developed by various institutions. The houses, may also be designed in accordance with the desire of beneficiaries, keeping in view the climatic conditions and the need to provide ample space, kitchen, ventilation etc. The responsibility for the proper construction of the house will thus be on the beneficiaries themselves. However, District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) / Zilla Parishads (ZPs) may constitute a Committee to coordinate the construction work. The Committee shall be sensitized to incorporate hazard resistant features in the design of the houses.