

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:19
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007
EFFECT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS USED IN TOYS
Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the environmental effects of toxic chemicals used in soft toys;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some States have put a ban on the use of certain types of toxic chemicals in soft toys;
- (d) If so, the details thereof and the extent of success achieved in this regard so far; and
- (e) The concrete steps proposed to be taken to ban the use of toxic chemicals in soft toys all over the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARIAN MEENA)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 19 FOR ANSWER ON MONDAY, THE 26TH FEBRUARY, 2007 REGARDING EFFECT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS USED IN TOYS BY SHRI UDAY SINGH

a) to e)The Industrial Toxicology Research Centre , Lucknow, a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Laboratory , conducted a study and submitted a report to the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2002 on "Assessment of Leaching of Phthalates , Metals and Colorants from Plastic Toys". The objective of the study was to survey the types and the quality of plastic toys to which children could be exposed, extent of leaching of phthalate plasticizers, metals and colorants from various type, factors influencing the leaching of phthalate, metals and colorants from plastic toys and effect of toys on health of children through clinical examination using a questionnaire.

The study suggested that natural, non- toxic pigments and dyes be promoted and toys be manufactured using standard procedures to minimize the possible leaching of its ingredients during use.

As per information made available by the Central Pollution Control Board and of the State Pollution Control Boards of Maharashtra, Gujarat , West Bengal , Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh ,no notification for banning use of chemicals in soft toys has been issued .As regards the safety requirement for toys, the Bureau of Indian Standards has published the following three standards for safety requirements for toys :-

1. IS 9873(Part I): 2001 / ISO 8124-1:2000 Safety requirements for toys: Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties
2. IS 9873 (Part 2) : 1999/ ISO 8124-2:1994 Safety requirements for toys : Part 2 :Flammability requirements
3. IS 9873(Part 3) : 1999/ISO 8124 -3 :1997 Safety requirements for toys: Part 3: Migration of certain elements , prescribed maximum acceptable element migration , for Antimony (Sb) , Arsenic(As), Barium(Ba), Cadmium(Cd) ,Chromium (Cr), Lead(Pb) , Mercury(Hg) and Selenium(Se) from toy materials.