

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:88
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
HAZARDS OF TESTING LABORATORIES
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

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

- (a) whether the Government has brought out the country's first environment management action plan to assess, regulate and contain the bio-chemical hazards of testing laboratories;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof; and
- (c) the role of the world bank in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 88 DUE FOR REPLY ON 05.03.2007 REGARDING HAZARDS OF TESTING LABORATORIES BY SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA

(a) to (c) No, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has evolved a set of Guidelines for evaluation and recognition of environmental laboratories, and for facilitating operations of the environmental laboratories, the Guidelines provide specification for the infrastructure, instruments and equipments, which are required for analysis of samples, the safe laboratory practices including arrangements for exhaust outlets, the facilities for management of toxic or highly inflammable material or gaseous and the provisions for disposal of liquid effluents generated from laboratories containing toxic pollutants like mercury etc. The requirements for waste segregation and its proper storage are also brought out in the Guidelines.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has undertaken a World Bank assisted Capacity Building Project for Food and Drugs Laboratories for preparation and implementation of an Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Plan for such laboratories. The activities envisaged in the EHS Management Plan include standard operating procedures for handling toxic chemicals, precautions for the handling of laboratory chemicals, evaluation, avoiding under estimation of risks and prevention of exposure to air borne substances. The project is also envisaged to enhance capacity for handling and management of hazardous chemicals and waste generated in such drug and food testing laboratories.