

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2088

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007

USE OF MERCURY

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India is the second largest consumer of mercury in the world ;
- (b) if so, the details of its quantity used for health care purposes;
- (c) whether health hazards are very high owing to the use of mercury, especially in the Government hospitals ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any policy to regulate the use of mercury especially in health care industry ;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (g): Information about India's ranking in terms of consumption of mercury and total quantity used for health care purposes is not available.However, mercury is used in medical equipments like thermometer, sphygmometer and dental amalgams in hospitals.Regular exposure to mercury may cause damage to the brain, the kidneys and developing foetus.

No ill effect of mercury in any Central Government Hospitals have come to the notice of the Government.

The disposable mercury waste, irrespective of the source of generation containing mercury and mercury compounds are disposed as per the Biomedical Waste

(Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 and Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2003.