

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2294

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007

TOXIC CONTENT IN PLASTIC TOYS

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

- (a) whether toxic content in plastic toys are harmful and are a threat to Liver, Kidney and causes Memory loss as reported in 'The Times of India', dated August 6, 2007 ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the use of toxic plastic toys by children cause permanent Brain Damage as per the estimates of World Health Organisation (WHO) ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any guidelines in this regard to check such toys; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by Government to check production and import of toxic toys ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)&(b) There have been several reports recently in the newspaper regarding poor product quality of Chinese made goods including toys. According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an NGO Toxics Link had conducted a study in 2006 which examined toys from Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai, and reports high levels of cadmium & lead in PVC used in soft toys. Most of the toys in Chennai and Mumbai were being imported from China. Lead is a known neuro and hematological toxin which can lead to delayed development and lower IQs in children. Cadmium is one of the heavy metals which has its primary effect on kidneys.

(c)&(d) According to ICMR, high levels of blood lead can lead to neurological damage and lower mental development in children.

(e) & (f) As per Ministry of Environment & Forest 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. IS9873 (Part 2): 1999/ISO 8124-2:1994 Safety requirements for toys : Part 2:Flammability requirements.
3. IS9873 (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.