

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1027  
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006  
BAN ON ASBESTOS  
Subbarayan Shri K.

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

- (a) whether India is signatory to any convention regarding use/production or export/ import of asbestos;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether complaints have been received regarding its carcinogenic content and its hazard to health and environment; and (
- (d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA )

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. India is a signatory and party since May, 2005 to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. The convention seeks to establish a prior informed consent procedure for imports and exports of chemicals listed in Annex HI. All varieties of asbestos, excluding chrysotile, is listed in Annex III of the convention and is subject to the Prior Informed Consent procedure. India imports and uses only Chrysotile (white) Asbestos. Chrysotile is under consideration in the Chemical Review Committee of the Convention for inclusion in Annex III.
- (c) No complaints have so far been received regarding carcinogenic content of Chrysotile Asbestos and its hazard to health and environment.
- (d) Does not arise.