

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1052

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014

ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS OF ENERGY EFFICIENT BULBS

Bhamre Dr. Subhash Ramrao

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

- (a) whether the energy efficient bulbs emanate cancerous chemicals on being lighted and if so, the details in this regard;
- (b) whether certain international studies have confirmed it and have suggested remedial measures to deal with the said problem;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the broken green harit bulbs are also harmful for the health; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the action plan of the Government to address the issue?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) to (e): Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) has informed that as of now, there is no specific study that suggests the use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) bulbs cause cancer. However, few studies conducted abroad on cell lines show increase in cell damage. They have also mentioned that as report from Germany indicates that energy Compact Fluorescent Lamps released several cancer causing chemicals such as phenol, naphthalene and styrene in a form of steam as they were switched on. However, most of thereleasedsubstances identified are anyway used in a wide variety of common uses and it would be important to establish intensity or duration of exposure that could trigger carcinogenic reaction.

The terminology 'Green Harit Bulbs' is not used in any of the Indian Standards published by BIS.