

Ban on white asbestos

537. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many organisations have demanded ban on white asbestos in the country causing lung cancer; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to ban use of white asbestos to make the environment free from pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the Non-Governmental Organisations have been campaigning for total ban on asbestos in the country causing lung cancer.

(b) As no scientific study establishing that the use of white asbestos causing lung cancer is available, it is not considered as desirable to ban the use of white asbestos.

Policy for bamboo-dependent people

538. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representations have been received to evolve a policy for bamboo-dependent people;

(b) if so, the details of this demand;

(c) the steps Government have taken to study and assess the need of some communities dependent on bamboo for their livelihood;

(d) whether any teams have visited such communities during the last year; and

(e) the steps proposed to interact with NGOs to further such plans for the bamboo-dependent people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. This Ministry has not received representations specifically seeking the evolution of a policy for bamboo-dependent people.

(b) Does not arise.