

Introduction

1. See: *Dumping Hazardous Waste in India: Toxic Ships* by Gopal Krishna, this monograph.
 2. Appendix A: *Asbestos-Related Diseases*.
 3. Appendix B: *Production, Imports and Consumption of Asbestos in India, 1920-2006*; Appendix C: *Cumulative Consumption of Asbestos in India, 1960-2006*.
 4. Several attempts to obtain data from the Indian Government on national asbestos production, exports and consumption have proved fruitless. We have therefore relied on statistics from the United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S). These figures are sometimes revised by the U.S.G.S. when new data become available.
 5. In his paper *Difficulties in the Diagnosis of Asbestosis in India*, Dr. V. Murlidhar uses the adjectives "ineffective" and "Kafkaesque" to describe the operations of the ESIC.
 6. See papers by Jagdish Patel and Dr. Sudhakar Kamat, this monograph.
 7. Professor Amartya Sen says that: "one single factor, namely smoking... accounts for nearly one in 10 of all deaths in India." *India Facing Smoking Death Crisis*. BBC News. February 13, 2008. Website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7239722.stm>
A study entitled *A Nationally Representative Case-Control Study of Smoking and Death in India*, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in February 2008, predicts that "in 2010, smoking will cause about 930,000 adult deaths in India... Because of population growth, the absolute number of deaths in this age group (30-69) is rising by about 3% per year."
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India's Asbestos Time Bomb

Although asbestos, an acknowledged carcinogen, is banned by developed countries, consumption is growing in India. The damage to human health and the pollution of the environment caused by the use of 7 million tonnes of this toxic substance have remained unacknowledged by a government obsessed with the quest for economic development.

In the absence of official action, concerned citizens in India work to assist the injured and raise awareness of the asbestos hazard. This publication gives campaigners the opportunity to document their experiences and, in conjunction with international experts, highlight the measures needed to deal with the country's asbestos legacy. The contributing authors are unanimous in their belief that the use of asbestos must be banned in India.