

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) An earth station already exists in Bhubaneswar.

(b) Does not arise.

**Committee to Monitor Hazards of Asbestos Industry**

3988. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a committee to study the safety aspects and hazards of the Asbestos Industry;

(b) if so, the composition of the committee; and

(c) the recommendations made by the committee so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) A Committee was appointed in August, 1983 by the DGTD Panel on Asbestos Products Industry to study the health hazards in the Asbestos Industry.

(b) The Committee was headed by Shri D.K. Biswas, Director, Deptt. of Environment and consisted of 13 other Members comprising Dr. G.G. Davay, Ex-Medical Inspector of Factories, Govt. of Maharashtra and representatives from Central Labour Institute, National Institute of Occupational Health, Deptt. of Environment, Directorate General of Mines Safety, Asbestos Information Centre and Asbestos Products Industry.

(c) The major recommendations of the Committee are listed below:

(i) State Pollution Control Boards

should make emission standards for the control of asbestos fibre dust in the general environment;

(ii) All operations and places where asbestos fibre is used should be brought under the purview of the Factories Act and Rules, irrespective of the size of the workforce or usage of electric power;

(iii) Every process and equipment related to the milling of asbestos ore and processing of asbestos fibre should be studied for its potential to create air-borne dust. In case any process/equipment releases dust that cannot be controlled to the desired limit by engineering control methods, such process/equipment should be prohibited;

(iv) Equipment used in the processing of asbestos should carry a certificate from the manufacturer that during normal usage as recommended, the equipment will not release fibre dust that will result in any workman being exposed to dust levels higher than the prescribed limit;

(v) Specialised trained manpower and equipment are to be provided to effectively monitor the environmental exposures in mines and medical surveillance system of the mine workers;

(vi) For licensing/registration of new units, specific requirements of dust control to be met by them should be listed out by the competent authority. Licence should be issued by the competent authority only after satisfying itself that such requirements have already been included in the

project;

- (vii) Packing of raw asbestos fibre should be in impermeable bags and should be handled as unitised loads as far as it is practicable. ISI may be requested to bring out the Code Practice for packing, handling, transportation and use of asbestos fibre;
- (viii) All the workers likely to be exposed to asbestos fibres should be covered by a well defined medical surveillance plan with no cost to the employee;
- (ix) The employees covered under the ESI Act should also be eligible for compensation after cessation of ESI coverage, as is the case in Workmen's Compensation Act. Employees not covered under ESI Act should be covered under general insurance at no cost to them;
- (x) ISI may be requested to expedite formulation of:
- Standards for the measurement of airborne fibrous dust,
  - Code of practice for the packing, handling, transportation, and use of asbestos in the factory, mine and other places,
  - Code of practice for the use of asbestos containing products,
  - Code of practice for disposal of asbestos waste materials, including tailings.

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12.00 hrs

[English]

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE  
(Jadavpur) : Sir, the House should welcome

the Agreement signed by the Government and the GNLF.

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Bombay South):  
We welcome it.

PROF. N.G.RANGA: (Guntur) Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I congratulate the Government on the latest agreement that they have reached with GNLF. It has paved the way for the solution of many such ethnic problems in India.

MR. SPEAKER: All of them.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, we are again seeking to draw your attention to the need for a discussion on the CAG Para about the HWD submarines ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is under consideration of the B.A.C.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Sir, it has been admitted by you. Why you are not allocating the time.

MR. SPEAKER: It is for the BAC, not for me.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Have you read that para, Sir,?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I have read...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It will be coming. Don't worry. It won't fly away...

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Sir, it is a very serious matter concerning the defence of our country... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Acharia.