

4.4% to 30.4% respectively (Manganese Poisoning Comming Report and CAF). The mean free Silica content of ore was 22 (3-36%) in lead and zinc mines.

Stone cutters : Four investigators i.e. Sikand and Pamra, Sethi and Kapoor, Gupta et al and NIOH reported prevalence rate of the disease as 52.5%, 25.0%, respectively. In the study conducted by NIOH the mean respirable dust concentrations in the two quarries were 0.80 mg/m and 0.85 respectively with nearly 70.0% free silica.

Ceramics and pottery industry : Silicosis reported by three studies revealed the prevalence rate of 15.7%, 11.1% and 15.1%. The respirable dust levels ranged from 0.39 mg/m to 43.8 mg/mg and free silica dust contents ranged from 4.8% to 23.3%.

Brick refractory workers : In brick refractory workers the prevalence of silicosis and tuberculosis was 21.7% and 7.0% respectively.

Rane observed deterioration of pulmonary function occur in 60.0% of workers with dust levels 119 (25-440) mppcf and with 75.0% free silica.

Agate industry : In agate industry, two studies reported the prevalence of silicosis as 18.4% and 36.7% respectively. The latter study reported the mean "total" and respirable" dust concentration as 25.4 mg/mg 3 (14.5-35.1 mg/m) and 2.74 mg/m (1.73-20.04 mg/m) respectively. The free silica content of this dust was 60%.

Slate pencil workers : In the slate pencil industry, two studies reported the prevalence rate of 57% and 54.6% respectively (29,30). The prevalence rate of progressive massive fibrosis (PMF) reported in these two slate pencil industry were 20% and 17.7% respectively. In the latter study, the "total" and "respirable" dust concentrations during the cutting processes were 46.47 mg/m 11.03-177.30 mg/m), and 10.41 mg/m 3 (4.27-18.39 mg/m) respectively, with free silica content 36.5%.

Other industries : The prevalence rate in other industries were as follows :

Scissor and razor grinding : 27.2% foundry workers - 2.5%. Iron and steel workers - 0.98%, ordnance factory - 3.5% glass manufacturing plant - 16.7%; non-mechanised iron and foundry workers - 27.2%, glass bangle workers - 7.3%; quartz crushing - 12% and sand grinding - 27.8%.

Pilferage of Diesel

5996. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a

racket involving well-oiled network of smugglers operating between Kandla Port and Radhanpur of the Pakistan border in North Gujarat and diesel worth crores of rupees is being pilfered from the pipeline;

(b) if so, the loss suffered by the Government during the last one year;

(c) whether the official of IOC are also involved in the racket;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) IOC have reported 9 incidents of oil pilferage during 1997-98 in Kandla Bhatinda Pipeline in the State of Gujarat resulting in the loss of diesel of about Rs. 3.44 crores during the year.

(c) to (e) IOC have reported that preliminary inquiry has not revealed involvement of any IOC officer. However as a measure of abundant precaution, an inquiry has been instituted by IOC to examine whether any IOC's official is involved.

Involvement of Citizen Award Winner's in Criminal Cases

5997. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Citizen Award Winner has 4 criminal record' appearing in the 'Hindu' dated May 20, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Award in question was presented by the President of India on the basis of a proposal submitted to him by a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). The recipients of the Award had been selected, as per the communication sent to the President, by a distinguished jury headed by a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India. None of the Ministries or Departments of the Government of India were involved with this function. It was for the sponsoring Non-Governmental Agency to have verified the antecedents of all the Awardees.