

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:935  
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2007  
ASBESTOS MINING  
Bangaru Smt. Susheela Laxman

**Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Indian Bureau of Mines has conducted any study on the health hazards of asbestos mine workers in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made in this regard;
- (c) the details of action taken by the Government on such recommendations; and
- (d) the time by which ban on leasing and renewal of lease of asbestos mine is likely to be lifted?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA).

(a) to (d): An S&T Project titled ` Study of Pollution Level in Asbestos Mines and processing plants in Rajasthan` was undertaken by Indian Bureau of Mines(IBM), a subordinate office of the Ministry. The Study recommended that subject to imposition of safeguards on pollution level in work environment, the ban imposed on grant and renewal of mining leases and expansion of mining may be lifted.

Recommendations of the Study have been examined in consultation with all stake holders. Some stake holders have suggested that asbestos mining can be permitted with appropriate safeguards. IBM in consultation with Central Pollution Control Board and Directorate General of Mines Safety has been asked to work out these safeguards. At present the ban on mining of asbestos has not been lifted.