

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1862
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010
OCCUPATIONAL STUDY
Kataria Shri Lal Chand

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has conducted any occupational study on asbestos mining;
- (b) if so, the findings of the study;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to initiate similar studies in other sectors of mining; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE)

(a) and (b): 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 stakeholders. Some stakeholders 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, which have not been finalized yet. At present the ban on grant/renewal of mining leases of asbestos has not been lifted.

(c) and (d): No, Sir.