

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4415
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010
MINING OF ASBESTOS
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any study has been conducted by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) regarding adverse effects on the health of the workers in asbestos mines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the findings of the study;
- (c) whether the IBM has made any specific recommendation in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the IBM has recommended the lifting of the ban on asbestos mining;
- (f) if so, whether the Government proposes to implement the recommendations made by the IBM and lift the ban on issuance of new mining lease agreement/renewal of the old ones; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (g): 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.