

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3331
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2011
ILL EFFECTS OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on ill effects of radioactive waste on the health of workers of uranium mines and their families;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a similar survey has been conducted by a team of Indian doctors in Jharkhand recently;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the workers involved in uranium mining?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PMO (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) Yes Sir. The Government conducted surveys to know the ill-effect, if any, of radioactive waste on the health of workers of uranium mines and their families.

(b) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), is having an occupational health centre at Jaduguda where uranium mine workers are periodically examined as per the provisions of Atomic Energy(Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004 and the Mines Act, 1952. Occupational Health Centre also carries out health survey of the family members of the workers. No occupational health disease of the uranium mine workers has been reported. There is an Advisory Committee of Occupational Health (ACOH) in Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) which reviews the occupational health safety status of DAE units, including uranium mines. The villages around the uranium mines, mills and tailings ponds have been surveyed from time to time by various agencies appointed by Government and the reports show that the incidence of diseases including cancer in these areas is not higher to that of national average. A health survey of 598 villagers residing near Jaduguda was carried out between January-December 2006, which included 152 males, 217 females and 229 children below the age of twelve.

As per the survey results in this group;

No case of congenital malformation and mental retardation was detected

No cancer cases were found

The number of infertility cases amongst married woman was 2 which is below the national average

The villagers suffer from conventional health problems which could be seen in any village with similar socio-economic conditions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Since the radiation levels in the plant and the surrounding areas are within the permissible levels, no further steps are necessary. Periodic monitoring of health of workers in uranium mines will continue as is the current practice.