

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3012  
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2011  
STUDY ON ASBESTOS MINING BY IBM  
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has conducted any study regarding the adverse impact on the health of the labourers involved in mining of asbestos;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the findings/recommendations of the study;
- (c) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether the safeguard measures for asbestos mining have since been finalised and the ban on grant/renewal of asbestos mining have been lifted;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the same are likely to be finalised?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (f): 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 restrictions 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 prepared draft guidelines laying down the safeguards for mining of asbestos, which are in the process of finalisation in consultation with stakeholders. The restriction on grant/renewal of mining leases of asbestos can not be lifted till the finalisation of guidelines.