

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2452

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2012

HEALTH PROBLEMS OF MINING WORKERS

Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay ;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh;Singh Shri Ratan

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the cases of silicosis and certain other diseases, particularly among the mining workers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such cases and deaths reported during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had conducted any survey in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the fresh measures taken/proposed by the Government to study the health problems of mining workers and to provide them medical facilities?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

(a): Yes.

(b): The details of number of workers affected due to occupational diseases reported from coal mines and from non-coal mines to Directorate General of Mines Safety during 2009-2012 (upto October) are Annexed.

The data on death of labourers engaged in mining sector due to occupational diseases are not available due to the fact that deaths due to occupational diseases occur primarily after cessation of employment and also an undiagnosed and not reported especially from unorganised sector mines.

(c) & (d): Studies carried out by Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) National Institute of Occupational Health has shown a significant prevalence of silicosis in following occupations:

Slate pencil in Mandsaur (MP), Stone crushing in Godhra (Gujarat), Agato in Khambhat (Gujarat) and Ceramic in Thangadh (Gujarat).

(e): Ministry of Labour has undertaken a nation wide effective awareness programme on "Silicosis" through telecast by Doordarshan on national network to take adequate preventive measures for elimination of Silicosis in mines.

Adequate provisions for safety and health of persons employed in mines are made in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957, Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961 and Oil Mines Regulations, 1984.

Regular inspections are carried out by the officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety to implement the health and safety norms provided under the said Act and Regulations.