

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:82

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES AMONG MINING WORKERS

Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai;Singh Shri Ratan;Singh Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) whether there is significant prevalence of silicosis and other occupational diseases among the mining workers including those working in dolomite mines across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor indicating the number of workers reportedly affected from these diseases in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government for the treatment and healthcare of mining workers?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (d) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that Silicosis is a notifiable disease under the Factories Act. During the past few years, National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad has carried out studies on silicosis in different industries where the exposure to free silica dust can occur. These industries/processes included slate pencils cutting units of Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh, agate grinding units of Khambhat, Gujarat; Ceramic and Pottery units of Thangadh, Gujarat. In addition, ICMR's Desert Medicine Research Centre at Jodhpur has also carried out a study among stone quarry workers in 2000. The prevalence of silicosis in the industries where NIOH has carried out studies is given in Annexure-I.

Ministry of Labour & Employment has given details of number of workers affected due to occupational diseases reported from coal mines and from non-coal mines to DGMS during 2001-2012 which are given in Annexure II & III. It has been further informed that no cases of silicosis from dolomite mines have been reported to the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS).

DGMS has not conducted any study in this regard.

(e) Ministry of Labour & Employment has informed that adequate provisions for safety and health of persons employed in mines are made in the Mines Act, 1952, Mines Rules, 1955, Coal Mines Regulations, 1957, Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961 and Oil Mines Regulations, 1984.

The Mines management is required to comply within such provisions in their mines.

The compliance of such provisions are checked during the course of inspections and enquiries by officers of DGMS and suitable measures such as notices, prohibitory orders are issued to ensure compliance.