

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2906
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015
CASES OF SILICOSIS
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

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

- (a) the details of habitats affected with silicosis in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the programmes being run by the Government in affected areas for prevention and control of silicosis;
- (c) the funds allocated, released and spent for the purpose along with the achievements made as a result thereof, under the said programmes during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) whether the Government propose to set up a task force to check silicosis in the affected areas and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) & (b): From the districts of Karauli and Dholpur of Rajasthan, chest radiographs of 848 persons with history of work in stone mines were evaluated by the National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH), an Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Mines and 400 cases of Silicosis were detected. The study was carried out in the year 2011-12, 2013-14 and 2014-15. The NIMH has stated that no such study was conducted in other States. NIMH has also informed that they propose to take up a research project titled "Multi Centric Study of Dust Related Disorder in Stone Mines" with the objective to study prevalence of dust related diseases and development of sustainable preventive strategies for stone mine workers.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has also informed that Silicosis is a notifiable disease under the Factories Act, 1948. National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) of ICMR Ahmedabad 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, the Desert Medicine Research Centre of ICMR at Jodhpur also carried out a study among stone quarry workers in the year 2000. The prevalence of silicosis in the industries where NIOH has carried out studies is given in the statement at Annexure.

(c) & (d): Health is a State subject. However, recently the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Labour have jointly approved a multi-centric study of dust related diseases with a approved cost of Rs.4.68 crores.