

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:372

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2015

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

Devi Smt. Rama;Mahajan Smt. Poonam

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted/proposes to conduct a systematic and comprehensive study of the occupational diseases and health hazards which workers are subjected in various hazardous work places such as mines, construction sites, factories including salt industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the casualties reported due to these diseases and accidents that have taken place during the last three years, State and industry-wise;

(c) whether personal protection and safety equipment are being provided to such workers including the salt workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the action taken against industries for not following health and security norms; and

(e) whether health insurance coverage is provided and medical check-ups are carried out in hazardous industries/ companies including salt manufacturing units, if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 372 FOR ANSWER ON 20.04.2015 REGARDING OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES BY SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN AND SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI.

(a)& (b) Government has proposed to conduct an occupational health survey of workers employed in stone mines and quarries of unorganised sectors. A project "Multi Centric Study of Dust Related Disease in Stone Mines and Development of Sustainable Preventive Program" has been entrusted to National Institute of Miners Health (NIMH), Nagpur, an Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Mines, during the current financial year 2015-16.

Besides, Directorate General Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) an attached office under the Ministry of Labour and Employment through its Labour Institutes carry out studies/surveys as requested from individual factories. Further, on the request of the State Governments specific studies/surveys are also carried out by DGFASLI. The list of Studies and Surveys carried out by DGFASLI during the last three years is given in Annexure-I.

Details of notified occupational disease cases reported to Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), an subordinate office under the Ministry of Labour and Employment by Mine Management during the last three years and the current year is provided in Annexure-II. Details of accident that occurred during the last three years and the current year is provided in Annexure-III.

The details of casualties due to disease are not available. The record related to death/accidents of labourers in construction sites under the Central Sphere, covered under the Building and Other Construction Workers Act 1996 is given in at Annexure -IV.

As per the information collected from the Chief Inspector of Factories, the State-wise fatal & non-fatal injuries in registered factories under the Factories Act, 1948 for the years 2011, 2012 & 2013 is enclosed as Annexure-V.

The details of Occupational Diseases during last three years reported by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is given in Annexure-VI.

(c) & (d) The Government of India has enacted a comprehensive legislation i.e. the Factories Act, 1948, for taking care of the occupational safety, health & welfare issues of the workers employed in manufacturing sector. There are elaborate provisions pertaining to the health, safety and welfare, provisions related to hazardous process, working hours, penal provisions etc. and the Rules prescribed there under are sufficient to ensure safety of the workers as far as the manufacturing sector is concerned. The Factories Act, 1948 and the State Factories Rules framed there under are enforced by the respective State/UTs through their State Factories Directorate/Inspectorates and the occupier of the registered factories are required to comply with the provisions of the Act

and Rules framed thereunder. As per Section 7A-General duties of the occupier- every occupier so far as reasonably practicable shall ensure the health, safety and welfare of the workers while they are at work in the factory. The details in respect of Prosecutions & Convictions under Section 92 & 96A for the factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948, for the years 2011, 2012 & 2013 which includes Salt manufacturing factories is enclosed as Annexure-VIIA, Annexure-VIIB & Annexure- VIIC respectively.

In addition, personal protective and safety equipment such as helmet, safety shoes, safety goggles, dust mask, ear plugs / muff, etc are provided to mine workers by mine management. Action taken by DGMS includes issuing improvement notices, prohibitory orders, and stoppage of work or suspension of mining operation.

(e) Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 provides for health insurance and caters to all insured persons with medical benefit, sickness benefit, disablement benefits and dependents benefits. For strengthening preventive health services including occupational health services under ESI Medical Scheme, Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has taken several steps which are as under:-

(i) Regular health checks up camps are being organized at work places for identification of occupational diseases amongst ESI Workers.

(ii) Five Occupational diseases centers have been set up by ESIC in Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Indore and Mumbai.

Initial medical examination for person to be employed and Periodical Medical Examination for person employed in mines once in every five years are carried out by respective mine management. Details of medical examination are provided in Annexure-VIII.