

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2110

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2015

Rights of Mining Workers

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has formulated any policies to protect rights of the mining workers and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of legal rights of the aggrieved mining workers which they can use in the case of any eventualities while engaged in mining;
- (c) the details of health hazards posed to marble mining workers in Rajasthan, and the action taken by the Government to provide safety nets to the marble mining workers; and
- (d) the details of the action taken by the Government against the erring mining companies for not protecting rights of the mining workers?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The objective of protecting right of the mining workers is regulated by the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. These are administered by the Directorate-General of Mines Safety (DGMS). DGMS makes every effort to ensure strict compliance of such provisions by mine management. Apart from administering the Mines Act, 1952 and the subordinate legislation thereunder, DGMS also administers some other allied legislation, including the Indian Electricity Act, 2003. A list of the subordinate legislations under the Mines Act and certain allied legislation administered by DGMS is at Annexure-I.

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(c): Persons working in marble mines of Rajasthan are exposed to air borne dust disease like Silicosis and disease due to high level noise i.e. noise induced hearing losses. Suitable strategies have been framed by the this Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) following international practices to identify the extent of prevalence of existing occupational diseases as well as to identify emerging health problems to miners and mitigation of the same. Many steps inter alia by the Government to create health awareness about occupational diseases amongst the workers working in mines:

- i) Adequate provisions regarding precautions to be taken to control the airborne dust in mines including wet drilling, dust monitoring, provisions of dust mask, dust respirator, personal dust samplers, dust sampling and testing as well as appointment of dust in-charge in mines have been made in the Coal and Metalliferous Mines Regulations.
- ii) The Occupational health of workers employed in mines is monitored/checked by conducting medical examination of workers before the job placement and re-examination at every Five Years intervals in accordance with the Rule 29B of Mines Rules, 1955.
- iii) The Mines management is required to comply within such provisions in their mines. The compliances 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.

(d): The mine management carries out the mining operations in accordance with the legal provisions to ensure safety of mining workers, officers of DGMS make periodic inspections of all types of mines, irrespective of ownership types of the mines. During inspection of mines, if the workings or the environment are found to be unsafe and dangerous from the point of view of safety of workers; violation letters, notices or prohibitory orders are immediately issued to the management to take necessary steps for improvement. Unless the conditions improve for re-deployment of persons as recorded through inspections, the orders are not vacated and persons are not allowed to be deployed in such dangerous conditions. DGMS after proper enquiry launches prosecutions against the mines which violate the rules and regulations of Mines Act, 1952.

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