

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3390
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2015
National Institute of Miner's Health
Chaudhary Shri C.R.;Kalvakuntla Smt. Kavitha

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any policies to protect rights of the mining workers and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of legal rights which the aggrieved mining workers can use in the case of any eventualities while engaged in mining;
- (c) the main aims and objectives of the National Institute of Miners' Health and whether the services are applicable/available for private sector mines also and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of studies carried out to ascertain health hazards posed to marble mining workers in the country, particularly in Rajasthan and the action taken by the Government to provide safety nets to the marble mining workers; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government against the erring mining companies which have been found violating the legal norms for safety of workers engaged in mining?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The objective of protecting rights 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 the Mines Act, 1952 and the subordinate legislation thereunder, Protection of the right of mines workers is also regulated by some other allied legislations given at Annexure-I.

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(c): National Institute of Miners' Health monitors work place hazard and conduct health surveillance of mines workers on chargeable basis for private sector mines. The main aims and objectives of the Institute as envisaged in the memorandum of Association inter alia are:-

- * Promotion of health and prevention of diseases among workers employed in mines and mineral based industries;
- * Research & development to ensure healthy, safe and sustainable extraction of the country's mineral wealth.
- * Assessment of health hazards in the work environment of mines and allied industries for regulatory and remedial measures.
- * Develop human resources in the field of occupational health and hygiene.
- * Co-operate and collaborate with other national and/or foreign institution and international organisations to strengthen the contacts in the field of environment health.
- * Provide technical support services to the mining and mineral based industry for compliance with national statutes and international standards.

(d): National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) has not conducted any research study to assess the health impact of marble dust in Rajasthan.

(e): 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 also launches prosecutions against the mines which violate the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

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