

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3429

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2015

Safety of Workers

Ram Mohan Naidu Shri Kinjarapu

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

- (a) whether the Government has a policy to ensure the safety of workers at their work place;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether the Government plans on framing a policy in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government have a framework of rules which have to be followed in ensuring the safety of the workers by the employers; and
- (e) whether there is a monitoring mechanism regarding the safety of workers at their work place and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The Government has declared the National Policy on Safety, Health and Environment at Workplace (NPSHEW) on 20th February, 2009. The purpose of the National Policy is to establish a safety and health culture in the country through elimination of the incidents of work related injuries, diseases, fatalities, disasters and to enhance the well-being of employees in all the sectors of economy.

The salient features of the Policy are as:-

• Recognizes safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental human right.

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• Aims at enhancing the well-being of the employees and the society at large by eliminating work related injuries, diseases, etc.

• Enumerates the goals to be achieved and brings into focus the objective of continuous reduction in the incidence of work related injuries and diseases.

• Describes the action programme with eight key strategies i.e. Enforcement, Development of national standards, Compliance, Awareness, Research and Development, Skill development, Data collection and review.

(d): Adequate provisions to ensure the safety of mines workers exist under the Mines Act, 1952 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder. Directorate-General of Mines Safety (DGMS) is entrusted with the implementation of Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder. The safety, health and allied issues at the workplace for workers employed in the manufacturing and ports is promoted under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 and the rules framed thereunder and the Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986.

Apart from the Mines Act, 1952 and the Factories Act, 1948, the safety of the workers is also regulated by other allied legislations, given at Annexure-I.

(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 working environment is 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 during inspection and the orders are not vacated, persons are not allowed to be deployed in such dangerous conditions. DGMS after proper enquiry also launches prosecutions against the mines which violate the rules and regulations of Mines Act, 1952.

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