

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:471

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2015

ASBESTOS MINING

Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite; Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite the ban, the mining of asbestos is going on unabated in some of the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) whether some of the State pollution control boards had granted permission for asbestos mining post since ban was enforced/imposed, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (d) whether the production of asbestos has increased during each of the last three years and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check this menace as asbestos mining causes serious environmental pollution and health hazards?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.471 FOR REPLY ON 27.4.2015 REGARDING 'ASBESTOS MINING' ASKED BY SHRI SATAV RAJEEV AND SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO

(a): In view of the deleterious effect of asbestos mining on the health of the workers, Department of Mines vide letter dated 9th July, 1986 had advised all State Governments to take necessary measures to stop further expansion in mining of asbestos and to issue instructions not to grant any lease for mining of asbestos. Further the Central Government vide letter dated 4th June, 1993 also directed all State Governments not to renew the existing mining leases for asbestos.

The import of the instructions was that no fresh mining leases should be granted for asbestos and no renewals for existing asbestos leases should be granted. However, mining of asbestos from the leases granted before 9.7.1986 was allowed to continue.

(b): The list of existing asbestos mining leases as on 21.04.2015 is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Lessee	State
1	M/s Padma Minerals (P) Ltd	Andhra Pradesh
2	M/s Padma Minerals (P) Ltd	Andhra Pradesh
3	Baba Mineral Corporation	Andhra Pradesh

(c) : Details of permissions given by the State Pollution Control Boards for mining, including asbestos mining are not maintained centrally.

(d) : Rule 45 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, prescribes a system of reporting of, inter alia, production of all minerals in the country to Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) (a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines). As per the data provided by IBM, no production of asbestos has been reported in the year 2014-15. Further, only the mines in Andhra Pradesh have reported production in the years prior to 2014-15, details of which are as follows:

State	Production in Tonnes		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Andhra Pradesh	276	389	227

(Provisional)

(e) : The following steps have been taken by the Ministry of Mines to check the environmental pollution and health hazards caused by asbestos mining:

i. Grant of fresh mining leases and renewal of existing mining leases for Asbestos has been banned by the Ministry of Mines in the country on health grounds.

ii. Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) in consultation with the Central Pollution Control Board and the Directorate General of Mines Safety has prepared draft guidelines laying down the safeguards for mining of asbestos, which were approved by the Ministry of Mines. IBM has been instructed to circulate these guidelines viz. 'Guidelines for Carrying out Chrysotile Asbestos Mining'; and 'Guidelines for Carrying out Amphibole Asbestos Mining' to all concerned.