

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2973
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2018
ASBESTOS RELATED DISORDERS AMONG WORKERS**

2973. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:

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

- (a) the total number of factory workers affected with Asbestosis and Asbestos related disorders while working on Chrysotile asbestos fibres in the processing units for the last three years, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Ministry is ensuring that asbestos processing industries have minimum safety and health standards at the workplace for the workers, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the initiatives adopted by the Ministry for the workers who have already been affected by asbestos, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE(IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a): The number of workers suffering from Asbestosis and the number of Asbestosis cases reported in the registered factories under the Factories Act, 1948 reported by Chief Inspector of Factories for the last three years is enclosed as Annexure.

(b): The Government of India has enacted the Factories Act, 1948 to ensure the safety and health of workers working in the factories registered under the Act. The State Governments are empowered under the Act to frame their respective State Factories Rules and both the Act and the Rules framed thereunder are enforced by the respective State Governments through their State Factories Inspectorate/Directorate to ensure the safety and health of the workers working in the registered factories including asbestos processing industries.

As per the provisions contained under Section 2(cb) of the Factories Act, 1948 the "Manufacture, handling and processing of Asbestos and its products" is declared as a hazardous process and the same is listed in the First Schedule of the Act and accordingly provisions of Chapter IV-A of the Act relating to hazardous processes are applicable to such factories. The permissible levels of asbestos fibre in work environment are given in Second Schedule of the said Act.

Further, under Section 87 concerning dangerous operations, the State Governments are empowered under the Act to declare dangerous operations under the Rules where the State Government is of the opinion that any manufacturing process or operation carried on in a factory exposes any persons employed in it to a serious risk of bodily injury poisoning or disease. Accordingly, the State Governments are empowered to frame the rules applicable to any factory or class or description of factories under Section 87 of the Factories Act, 1948 and notify the schedule on handling and processing of asbestos, manufacture of any article of asbestos and any other process of manufacture or otherwise in which asbestos is used in any form. Further, in case of violations of any provisions by the occupier or manager of the registered factories, prosecutions are launched under Section 92 and 96A of the Act.

(c): Section 7A of the Factories Act, 1948 provides that every occupier shall ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all workers while they are at work in the factory registered under the Factories Act, 1948. Further, Section 89 of the Factories Act, 1948 prescribes that where any worker in a factory registered under the Act contracts any notifiable disease including Asbestosis specified under the Act, the manager of the factory shall report the same to the Chief Inspector of Factories and other authorities in their State Factories Rules which is enforced by the State Governments who are empowered under the Act to initiate penal action under Section 92 of the Act for violation of any of the provision of the Act and the Rules framed thereunder.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2973 FOR 21/03/2018 RAISED BY SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN REGARDING ASBESTOS RELATED DISORDERS AMONG WORKERS

STATE WISE NUMBER OF ASBESTOSIS CASES REPORTED FOR THE YEARS 2014, 2015 AND 2016

Sl. No.	State	2014	2015	2016	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
2	Andhra Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
3	Assam	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
4	Bihar	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
5	Chandigarh	NR	NIL	NIL	NIL
6	Chhattisgarh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
7	Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
8	Delhi	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
9	Goa	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
10	Gujarat	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
11	Haryana	NIL	NIL	NR	NIL
12	Himachal Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
13	Jammu & Kashmir	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
14	Jharkhand	NIL	NIL	NR	NIL
15	Kerala	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
16	Karnataka	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
17	Meghalaya	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
18	Maharashtra	1	1	NIL	2
19	Manipur	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
20	Madhya Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NR	NIL
21	Nagaland	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
22	Odisha	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
23	Puducherry	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

24	Punjab	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
25	Rajasthan	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
26	Tamil Nadu	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
27	Telangana	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
28	Tripura	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
29	Uttarakhand	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
30	Uttar Pradesh	NIL	NIL	NR	NIL
31	West Bengal	NIL	NIL	NR	NIL
Total		1	1	NIL	2

1.**Source:** Data collected by DGFASLI through correspondence with Chief Inspector of
Factories of States/UTs

2.**NR:** Data not available/not received.
