

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1044  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022**

**SAFETY OF WORKERS ENGAGED IN COAL MINING**

**1044. SHRI RAKESH SINHA:**

**Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether coal mining is hazardous for health, if so, details of steps taken to safeguard workers health;**
- (b) whether unlike public sector companies, private miners do not give workers adequate facilities despite Government and Supreme Court's directives, if so, details of steps being taken to compel miners to comply with the directives;**
- (c) steps being taken by Government to protect workers from getting engaged in rat hole minings which is the biggest threat to their life and health; and**
- (d) whether Government will consider to issue health cards to workers facilitating treatment of those diseases that frequently occur?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

**(a): The safety of workers employed in the mines including coal mines is dealt with in provisions contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and rules & regulations made thereunder. Provisions for protection of coal miners health from dust, smoke and noxious gases while working within the mine boundary have been made in the Coal Mines Regulations 2017. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour and Employment administers Mines Act 1952 and rules and regulations framed thereunder.**

**(b): The provisions of Mines Act, 1952 is applicable to public and private sector mining companies. The implementation of the provisions of the Mines Act 1952 and its subordination legislation is overseen by the DGMS through inspections of public sector and private sector mines. Based on the results of inspections corrective**

**Contd..2/-**

**actions like, (i) issue of contraventions letters, (ii) temporary stoppage of work or part thereof (iii) follow up of inspections to check the compliances (iv) improvement notices (v) prohibitory order etc. are taken for improvement of the working conditions in the mines for the safety and health of the mine workers.**

**(c): As per the Mines Act, 1952 and its subordinate regulations, rat hole mining is not a method of mining. DGMS authorizes and gives statutory permissions for method of mining, which has been scientifically proven to be occupationally safe for miners.**

**(d): Following provisions have been made in Mines Act 1952 and rules and regulations framed thereunder:-**

- (i) Health status of workers employed in a mine is monitored/ checked by conducting initial medical examination at the time of first employment and periodical medical examination at every five years intervals in accordance with the Rule 29B of Mines Rules, 1955.**
- (ii) Periodic medical examination or the chest x- ray examination or both, shall be conducted at more frequent intervals if the examining authority deems it necessary to confirm a suspected case of a dust related disease.**
- (iii) As per provisions of the Section 25 of the Mines Act 1952, if any person employed in the mines contracts any notified disease, the Owner, Agent or Manager of the Mine send notice to DGMS in appropriate form.**
- (iv) As per the section 9A of the Mines Act 1952, the Chief Inspector or an Inspector or other officer authorized in this behalf may undertake the safety and occupational health survey in a mine to identify the persons with any of the occupational diseases.**
- (v) If any person who is found medically unfit in a safety and occupational health survey undertaken as per provisions of sub section 2 of section 9 A of the Mines Act 1952, he shall be entitled to undergo medical treatment at the cost of the owner, agent and manager with full wages during the period of such treatment**

**\*\*\*\*\***