

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2485
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023**

HEALTH CONDITION OF PEOPLE IN MINES AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES

2485. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study to determine the health condition of people in mining and industrial zones;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) whether Government proposes to make adequate arrangement to improve the medical facilities including in the mining areas in Neyveli in Tamil Nadu; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH), Nagpur in collaboration with Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), a subordinate office of Ministry of Labour & Employment conducted a survey under the project 'Multi Centric Study of Dust Related Disease in Stone Mines and Development of Sustainable Preventive Programme' to detect cases of silicosis in the stone mines during 2015-2016 to 2017-2018. During the project, 2537 persons were examined out of which 136 cases of silicosis were detected.

Further, DGMS with the help of State Government Authorities and mines management also carried out surveys to detect cases of silicosis in the stone mines and other metal mines in various states during calendar year 2017 to 2022. During the survey, 14908 persons were examined, 12657 X-ray films were evaluated out of which 287 cases of silicosis were detected.

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

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(i) Health status of workers employed in a mine shall be 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. In case of persons employed in Asbestos Mines, intervals of Periodical Medical Examination is 3 years.

(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 shall 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 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.
