

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 42
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023**

Impact on health due to coal mining

42 Dr. Fauzia Khan:

Will the Minister of *Coal* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted health impact assessments for communities residing in proximity to coal mining operations;
- (b) if so, the details of the findings and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any research/study/assessment has witnessed a gender-specific impact of coal mining;
- (d) specific measures being undertaken to protect and improve the health of communities living near coal mining operations, considering the severe contamination with toxic heavy metals and chronic health problems like chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and other chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, if any; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

Steps taken to provide health amenities to the communities residing near mining operation are following:

Coal India Limited (CIL):

(a) to (e) : CIL and its subsidiaries have taken several measures to provide health services to the communities living near mining operation which include inter-alia village health camps for regularly early detection and treatment of diseases such as eye check up, mental health ,wellness ,immunisation, mother and child health, hypertension and diabetes, cancer detection camps. In addition, health checks up and community development activities are also undertaken through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL):

(a) to (b) : A survey has been conducted on health impact assessments for the communities residing in proximity to Lignite mining operation around Neyveli. However, in respect of Talabira II & III coal mine which came in operation in 2020, no specific study has been conducted on health impact.

(c) to (e): From April 2022 to October 2023, screening test were conducted around Neyveli for 3386 males and 4937 females and no gender specific impact was found out. Pulmonary Function test was conducted to identify respiratory illnesses and screening tests conducted to detect NCD

(Non- Communicable Diseases). In addition, specialized medical/ health camps are being organized by NLCIL periodically to cater to the special health requirements of the peripheral villages. Adequate measures such as Water sprinkling are being carried out for dust suppressions. Green Belts are being developed in and around the Mining area to curb pollution.

In the case of Talabira II & III coal mine, specialised medical / health camps are being organized periodically to cater the special health requirements of the people in peripheral villages. Ambulance has also been provided for the Project affected Persons.

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL):

(a) to (c): SCCL has been conducting medical screening camps in projects affected villages and also extending medical treatment, and in addition, taking all precautionary measures to control pollution.

(d) to (e): No such cases like Chronic Bronchitis. Emphysema and other chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases are reported from communities living near coal mining operation of SCCL.
