

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 63
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

Health concerns and medical assistance

63. # Smt. MAHUA MAJI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted a detailed study on health problems, particularly respiratory and skin diseases, in mining sectors to verify the findings of the survey conducted by National Foundation for India;
- (b) the concrete steps taken so far to address the long-term health related problems of coal miners and their families in the States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to set up special health facilities or mobile health units for workers and their families in the affected districts?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): Specific study has not been conducted to verify the findings of the survey conducted by National Foundation for India. However, all Coal PSUs and its subsidiaries conduct statutory medical examinations including Initial Medical Examination (IME) and Periodic Medical Examination (PME) for all on-roll and contractual employees as per DGMS guidelines.

(b) & (c): CIL has a robust healthcare network comprising 63 hospitals, 302 dispensaries, 1,076 doctors, and 3,629 beds, with services extended to contractual workers as well. Specialized treatment is provided through 446 empanelled hospitals across India. CIL also runs the Contributory Post-Retirement Medicare Scheme (CPRMS) for retirees and their families. Furthermore, 26 digital dispensaries offer telemedicine services, improving access to care in remote mining regions. This comprehensive system ensures regular monitoring and management of occupational health risks in coalfields. Following are the initiatives undertaken by the Coal PSUs and its subsidiaries in this regard:

- **Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL):** MoU signed with Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute for telemedicine.
- **South Eastern Coalfield Limited (SECL):** Deployed 13 Mobile Medical Units under CSR for mining-affected villages.

- **Northern Coalfield Limited (NCL):** Operates 5 mobile medical units covering mining-affected villages.
- **Eastern Coalfield Limited (ECL):** Operates 2 Central Hospitals, 9 Area Hospitals, 99 dispensaries, and 15 Occupational Health Centers that regularly conduct health camps and outreach.
- **Western Coalfield Limited (WCL):** Provides comprehensive healthcare through 11 hospitals and 26 dispensaries; tertiary care via empanelled hospitals.
- **Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL):** In coordination with State Government, Screening Camps were conducted by utilizing the mobile X- Ray van, in the Mines units and around project sites. Also, PFT screening is done for risk groups at the Mines and Thermal units of.
- **Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL):** Operates 7 area hospitals and 21 dispensaries across the coal belt, in addition to 12 Occupational Health Centres near the mining areas. These facilities provide medical services to employees, their families, retired personnel, spouses and civilians affected by the projects. SCCL also conducts regular mobile medical camps in residential colonies of project-affected areas as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Patients requiring tertiary care are referred to corporate hospitals for advanced treatment. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) are also in place with corporate hospitals for tertiary care services.

Further, the following are the region-specific initiatives undertaken:

- **Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL) (Odisha):** Conducts regular PME, annual respiratory health studies, and routine medical screening through camps and hospitals.
- **ECL (Jharkhand):** Converted PME centers into Occupational Health Centres; conducts respiratory health camps and trained doctors in ILO radiography.
- **BCCL (Jharkhand):** Organizes regular health check-up camps in mining villages and has tied up with Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute for pulmonary care.
- **SECL (Chhattisgarh):** Operates 3 Central and 7 Regional Hospitals, and 56 dispensaries; provides referral services via over 440 empanelled hospitals.
- **CCL (Jharkhand):** Provides PME, health camps, digital dispensaries for tele-consultation, and TB awareness programs.
- **NLC (Odisha):** Occupational Health Services (OHS) in NLCIL Talabira II & III OCP, Odisha maintains a cohort of miners engaged in mining units and executives/supervisors and contract workers engaged over a long haul almost covering their entire working lives and monitor the health parameters right from their recruitment to their retirement.
