

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 117
ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

MINING AND HEALTH IMPACTS IN ODISHA

117. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any assessment regarding the impact of mining activities on air quality, water quality, heavy metal contamination and public health in mining districts of the State of Odisha;
- (b) if so, the district-wise findings thereof;
- (c) whether any epidemiological or health surveillance studies have been undertaken in mining-affected areas with respect to respiratory illnesses, occupational diseases, cancer, groundwater contamination or other mining-related health conditions;
- (d) the measures taken to mitigate such impacts through the District Mineral Foundation, Corporate Environmental Responsibility or other schemes; and
- (e) whether Government proposes to prescribe periodic health surveillance for populations residing within mining-affected areas?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES
(SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY)

(a) & (b): As per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder, before execution of the mining lease, it is mandatory for the prospective lessees to obtain the requisite statutory clearances, including Environmental Clearance (EC). As part of grant of EC, Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies are carried out by taking into consideration the likely impact of project activity on the baseline environment including air quality, water quality, heavy metal contamination and public health. Respective State Pollution Control Boards monitor and enforce the compliance of various environmental parameters by the lease holders. This applies across India including Odisha.

(c): The Central Government has enacted the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH&WC) Code, 2020 which has come into effect from 21.11.2025 to regulate the occupational safety, health and working conditions of the persons employed in various establishments including mines. Subsequently, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified the Occupational Safety Health and Working Conditions (Central) Rules, 2026 on 08.05.2026 under the OSH&WC Code, 2020. Rule 109 of the said Rules specifically mandates

an initial medical examination before employment in a mine; and an annual periodical medical examination for every person employed in a mine, with more frequent examinations where dust-related diseases are suspected.

(d): PMKKKY Guidelines, 2024 mandate utilization of at least 70 percent of Direct Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds in high priority sectors such as drinking water supply, healthcare, and environmental preservation & pollution control measures. As per information available in DMF portal, DMF funds amounting to ₹3,371 crores, ₹2,275 crores, and ₹247 crores have been spent in Odisha under (i) drinking water supply, (ii) healthcare, and (iii) environmental preservation & pollution control measures, respectively till May 2026. As per PMKKKY Guidelines, 2024, the District Mineral Foundations decide the specific projects to be taken up as per local needs.

(e): Directorate General of Mines Safety, under Ministry of Labour and Employment conducts health awareness camps regularly as part of proactive measures to address the health hazards and associated risk for workers in the mines.
