

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-490
ANSWERED ON 23/07/2026

IMPACT OF URANIUM MINING ON HEALTH

490. SMT. MAHUA MAJI

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has conducted any scientific study or independent assessment regarding the health environment and radiation safety impacts on the people residing in and around the uranium mining and processing area of Jharkhand during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the major findings thereof and the corrective and precautionary measures taken in Jharkhand on the basis thereof; and
- (c) whether Government is implementing any long-term action plan for health monitoring, safe drinking water, environmental surveillance and the welfare of local community in these areas and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) & (b) The Health Physics Unit (HPU) of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), regularly carries out environmental monitoring around the mining facilities to evaluate the impact of uranium mining. UCIL carries out its mining and processing activities under the regulatory oversight of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), with periodic inspections and reviews by AERB, the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), and the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB). Radiological monitoring of workplaces and the surrounding environment have been carried out continuously since the commencement of operations. The monitoring results consistently indicate that radiation exposure to workers and members of the public remains well within the limits prescribed by AERB. A health survey was conducted by Uranium Corporation of India (UCIL) in the surrounding villages of UCIL establishments in Jharkhand in the recent past. The survey covered many villages and a large

number of villagers were medically examined. The health issues observed among villagers were typical in nature and similar to those generally found in rural areas with comparable socio-economic conditions. The major finding of all the past studies was that the disease pattern around the uranium mining operation cannot be ascribed to radiation exposure.

(c) UCIL, in coordination with the Health Physics Unit (BARC) and other regulatory agencies is implementing long-term measures for health monitoring, environmental surveillance, and the welfare of the local community in and around the uranium mining areas of Jharkhand. Regular monitoring of workplace radiation, environmental samples (air, water, soil, and food), and occupational exposure is carried out to ensure compliance with the standards prescribed by AERB. Health surveillance and medical examinations of workers are conducted periodically, while health assessment programs for nearby villages are undertaken from time to time.

UCIL also implements various community welfare initiatives under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs, including the provision of safe drinking water, healthcare services, sanitation, education, skill development, and infrastructure development for the local communities. In addition, awareness programs on radiation safety are organized periodically to enhance public awareness which sees participation of villagers, Gram Panchayat representatives, media personnel, school teachers, students, and representatives of UCIL and the Health Physics Unit (BARC).
