

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1547
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.03.2018**

SILICOSIS DEATHS

1547. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of deaths among mine workers reported due to silicosis during the last three years and the current year;**
- (b) whether measures have been taken to protect and compensate these workers and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether workers hired on contract will also be protected and compensated under labour laws, if affected by silicosis;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a): The number of deaths among mine workers reported due to silicosis during the last three years and the current year is 327 as reported by the State Governments and Union Territories to the Directorate General of Mines Safety under Ministry of Labour & Employment.

(b): Following measures have been taken to protect these workers:

(i) Steps taken to protect the persons employed in the mines from dust:

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- **Wet drilling**
- **Periodic monitoring of dust levels at workplace**
- **Personal Dust Exposure profile using Personal Dust Samplers**
 - **Use of Dust mask and Dust respirator as Personal Protective Equipments**
 - **Initial Medical Examination before employment and Periodical Medical Examinations of persons employed in mines at an interval of 5 years.**
 - **Occupational health survey**
 - **Awareness Campaign**

(ii) 236 Awareness camps have been organized in 15 states with the help of State Governments and Union Territories to bring awareness among the mine owners and mine workers about Silicosis and measures for protection against Silicosis including the use of protective gear.

Compensation for Silicosis affected workers is given under Employees' Compensation Act, 1923 which is administered by Compensation Commissioners of respective State Governments and Union Territories. Compensation is given by the respective mining companies or owners.

(c) to (e): The Mines Act, 1952 does not differentiate between the permanent and contractual worker.
