

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1069
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023**

Steps to Ameliorate Lung Diseases

**1069. SHRI B.Y. RAGHAVENDRA:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to ameliorate lung diseases collectively termed Coal Mine Dust Lung Disease (CMDLD) including Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis, silicosis, mixed dust pneumoconiosis, dust-related diffuse fibrosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the number of such diseases reported in the State of Karnataka and the action being initiated in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Steps taken to ameliorate lung diseases by coal companies are below as:

1. Coal India Limited (CIL):

- I. Adequate precautionary measures are being taken for prevention and control of dust as per Regulation no. 143, 144 and 145 of Coal Mine Regulation 2017 by mines of CIL and its subsidiary.
- II. Screening at regular intervals to check for the development of disease and initiate appropriate measures. Initial Medical Examinations for newly joining employees and Periodic medical examinations for existing employees are undertaken at prescribed regular intervals at equipped centres of the company. On confirmation of diagnosis of any of the dust related diseases appropriate treatment measures are initiated at company hospitals, referrals are made as and if required to super specialty private empanelled hospitals and appropriate rehabilitation measures are initiated.

2. NLC India Limited (NLCIL):

2.1 Periodical Medical examination for the people working in Mines:

- I. The OHS (Occupational Health Services) unit at NLC India Hospital implements Periodic Medical Examination (PME) programme as per DGMS guidelines to monitor the occupational health and wellbeing of miners. PME covers the entire mining population once in 3 years as per DGMS guidelines.

- II. OHS also complies with continuous monitoring of health and wellbeing of employees engaged in mines, including contract workmen. This cycle is repeated periodically that enables OHS to have proper perspective on occupational health and wellbeing of miners.
- III. PME also focuses on prevention for any occupationally related respiratory illness through appropriate investigations like Chest X Ray and Lung Function Tests. OHS also undertakes Master Health Checkup for executives and non-executives from across all units as preventive health strategy.
- IV. There are 6 full time AFIH (Associate Fellowship in Industrial Health) qualified doctors and a full time Chest Physician who has expertise in screening and diagnosing occupational lung diseases.

2.2 Air Quality Monitoring:

- I. 13 numbers of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (AAQMS) installed in the surrounding villages of Lignite Mines and being monitored by IIT-Madras.
- II. The results of Air quality are within the permissible limits and submitted to statutory officials periodically.
- III. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) conducts periodical surveys to monitor the Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) in the Mining Units and surrounding villages and the values are well within the permissible limits.

3. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL):

Periodical Medical Examination are being conducted to the employees every 5 years for below 45 years of age and every 2 ½ years for above 45 years.

(c) Since CIL, NLCIL and SCCL do not have any coal mine in the state of Karnataka, the question of details of the number of such diseases reported in the State of Karnataka does not arise.
