

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *226
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2021

BAN ON ASBESTOS MINES

*226. SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA:
SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of asbestos mines which are currently functional in the country, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan;
- (b) whether the Government has put a ban on asbestos mines for health-related reasons;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the date when the said ban was imposed along with details of any deadline to comply with the conditions of the ban;
- (d) the details of the health hazards/crises associated with asbestos mining as noted by the Government; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to ensure closure of open cast asbestos mines in the country including in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *226 FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2021 ASKED BY SHRI
SANGAM LAL GUPTA AND SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY REGARDING BAN ON
ASBESTOS MINES**

(a): As per information made available by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines, currently no asbestos mine is functional in the country.

(b) & (c): Considering the deleterious effect of asbestos on the health of the workers as it exposes them to various diseases, like silicosis, pneumoconiosis etc., Central Government decided on 09th July, 1986 not to permit the expansion of mines of asbestos. Accordingly, the State Governments/UTs had been directed not to grant any new mining lease for asbestos in the country. However, there were no deadlines provided to the State Governments/UTs to comply with this decision at that time.

(d): As per information made available by Ministry of Labour and Employment, following diseases have been notified under section 25(1) of Mines Act, 1952 as the diseases associated with asbestos mining:

(i) Asbestosis

(ii) Cancer of Lung or the stomach or the pleura and peritoneum (i.e. mesothelioma).

(e): In compliance of Hon'ble NGT, Delhi order dated 29.10.2015, joint inspections were carried out in the State of Rajasthan by Directorate of Mines & Geology, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board and IBM to ensure closure of Asbestos mines. As per records available with IBM and information provided by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, there are no asbestos mines in Uttar Pradesh.
