

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1799  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022**

**SILICOSIS PATIENTS**

**1799. SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY:**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of silicosis patients, identified in the country during the last two year, State/UT/district-wise particularly in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the number of such patients in the said two States who have been provided medical and financial assistance in the said period;
- (c) the number of persons died due to silicosis disease in both the States during the last two years along with the details of compensation related provisions made by the Government for such patients; and
- (d) whether the Government is taking any concrete steps to increase awareness regarding silicosis disease and provide safety measures to prevent the disease in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c): The Factories Act, 1948 provides for safety, health and welfare to workers working in the factories registered under the said Act. Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) under Ministry of Labour & Employment through correspondence with the Chief Inspector of Factories (CIF)/Director Industrial Safety & Health (DISH) of the State/UTs.

As per information received from Ministry of Labour & Employment, DGFASLI has intimated 240 cases in Haryana during 2019; 34 cases in Haryana and 10 cases in Gujarat during 2020. No case was reported in 2019 and 2020 in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. As per Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), only 04 cases of Silicosis in Andhra Pradesh and 02 cases in Kerala were reported in the country during 2021.

Health is a state subject and compensation for silicosis affected person is given under Employee Compensation Act, 1923 which is administered by Compensation Commissioners of respective States.

(d): Indian Council of Medical Research -National Institute of Occupational Health (ICMR-NIOH) under Department of Health Research (DHR) has developed several technologies for reduction of dust levels and diagnosis of silicosis. It has also developed techniques for prevention and control of silicosis in agate workers and quartz cutting industries.

Silicosis health-care units have been established in silicosis-risk districts by the States, where free chest X-ray and pulmonary function tests are done. Regular inspections are made to industries that use silica, with active involvement of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure proper monitoring.

IEC Booklets about silicosis by 'National Institute of Occupational Health' (NIOH), India have been prepared and are available at: <http://niohenviis.nic.in/booklets/silicosis.pdf> and <http://niohenviis.nic.in/booklets/silicosis1.pdf>

Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Condition Code 2020 (OSHWC) has made it mandatory for all employers to provide annual health checks free of cost as prescribed by the appropriate Government.

Further, DGFASLI is conducting training programmes, workshops, seminars, conferences and appreciation programmes for creating awareness for the prevention and safeguard against Silicosis. The Chief Inspectors of Factories / Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health, (CIF/DISH) are also conducting awareness programmes on providing safeguards against Silicosis. Following measure have been taken to protect the mine workers:

- i. Wet drilling
- ii. Periodic monitoring of dust levels at workplace.
- iii. Use of Dust mask and Dust respirator as Personal Protective Equipments.
- iv. Initial Medical Examination before employment and periodical Medical Examinations of persons employed in mines at an interval of 5 years.
- v. Occupational Health Surveys
- vi. Awareness campaigns.
- vii. Personal Dust Exposure profile using Personal Dust Samplers.

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