

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 146
ANSWERED ON 27.7.2022

WELFARE PROJECTS FOR MINERS

*146. SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has completed welfare projects initiated for the miners in Odisha and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any steps for preservation of environment and mitigation of pollution generated from the mines have been taken for the welfare of localities and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any health coverage is extended to the miners, especially for occupation-related ailments and if so, the details of the coverage thereof and the data regarding beneficiaries in Odisha;
- (d) whether any benefits are also offered to spouses and children of miners in case of an accident at the site and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any digital grievance redressal system has been introduced for miners in Odisha and if so, the details thereof?

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. 146 FOR ANSWER ON 27.7.2022 ASKED BY SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI REGARDING WELFARE PROJECTS FOR MINERS.

(a) & (b): The safety, health and welfare of workers employed in mines is regulated by the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules/ Regulations framed thereunder. Mine Owners/Lessees are responsible for making necessary arrangements for the welfare, health and safety of the miners as per the provisions of the said Act and rules/regulations.

The Metalliferous Mines Regulations 1961 and the Coal Mines Regulations 2017 framed under the Mines Act have provisions for the protection of miners from dust, smoke and noxious gases while working within the mine boundary. As per the information provided by Government of Odisha, the lessees are taking appropriate steps for preservation of the environment and to mitigate pollution generated from the mines as per the stipulation of the EC, Consent to Operate and other such clearances.

For reducing the environmental impact associated with mining, Chapter V of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR) 2017, prescribes rules for sustainable mining; removal and utilisation of topsoil; storage of overburden, waste rock etc.; precaution against ground vibrations; control of surface subsidence; precaution against air pollution; discharge of toxic liquid; precaution against noise; and restoration of flora etc. The lessees are responsible to implement the above provisions.

Environment preservation, pollution control as well as health care are amongst High Priority Areas in Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) under which projects are implemented using District Mineral Foundation funds. Till May 2022, a total of 611 projects have been undertaken for environment preservation & pollution control and 1107 projects have been undertaken in healthcare sector in Odisha. Details are given below:-

Areas	Number of Projects	Amount Allocated (In Cr.)	Amount Spent (In Cr.)
Environment Preservation and Pollution Control	611	268.11	82.38
Health Care	1107	1781.20	1255.52

(c): Following provisions exist in the Mines Act, Rules and Regulations made thereunder on occupational health and diseases in mines:

1. As per Rule 45A of the Mines Rules 1955, for every person who receives injury in the course of his duty, the management shall make arrangements for rendering him the first aid and also immediate attention of a medical practitioner, if required.
2. If any person who is found medically unfit in a safety and occupational health survey undertaken as per provisions of sub section 2 of section 9A of the Mines Act 1952, he shall be entitled to,

- i. undergo medical treatment at the cost of the owner, agent and manager with full wages during the period of such treatment
 - ii. If the person is declared to be unfit to discharge his duties, he shall be provided with an alternate employment in the mine for which he is medically fit
 - iii. In case alternate employment is not available, he shall be given disability allowance or compensation.
3. As per provisions of the Section 25 of the Mines Act, if any person employed in the mines contracts any notified disease, the Owner, Agent or Manager of the Mine shall send Notice to the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) in appropriate form. However, no such case has been reported to the DGMS from the State of Odisha during the last three years.

(d): As per the provisions of the Employees' Compensation Act, 1923, the employers are liable to pay compensation if personal injury is caused to an employee by accident arising in course of employment.

As per Section 4 of the Employees' Compensation Act, 1923, where death results from the injury, the amount of compensation shall be an amount equal to fifty per cent. of the monthly wages of the deceased employee multiplied by the relevant factor specified in the schedule of the Act; or an amount of one lakh and twenty thousand rupees, whichever is more;

(e): Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Management System (CPGRAMS) is a digital grievance address system of DGMS. In the State of Odisha, during the year 2021, seven grievances were received and all of them were redressed. During 2022, two grievances were received which have been redressed.
