

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1990
ANSWERED ON 11.02.2026

HEALTH ISSUES AMONG COAL MINES WORKERS

1990. DR. GUMMA THANUJA RANI:

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

- (a) whether a recent study has highlighted severe health issues linked to mining pollutants among coal miners including respiratory and skin diseases and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any action to mitigate these health risks among coal workers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof including any plans for transitioning coal workers towards employment in renewable energy sectors?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): The Coal Sector PSUs undertake extensive and continuous health studies, surveillance programmes and epidemiological assessments to monitor disease patterns in coal mining regions. Health conditions related to mining exposure, including respiratory and dermatological disorders are routinely assessed through a structured framework comprising Initial Medical Examination (IME), Periodic Medical Examinations (PME) and statutory occupational health surveys. Suspected occupational diseases are evaluated through Occupational Disease Boards (ODB), functional in all subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

Based on consolidated medical records and ODB evaluations, no confirmed cases of occupational respiratory or dermatological diseases have been reported during the last five years in CIL and SCCL. Continuous monitoring is, however, carried out for early detection and timely intervention.

NLCIL mines are open cast mines and are fully mechanised. As such no manual labours are used in direct mining activities and hence, they are at minimal risk in acquiring occupational related illness.

(b) and (c): The Coal Sector PSUs have taken extensive preventive and mitigating measures to address health risks associated with mining activities. Details are as under:

(i) Coal Sector PSUs have developed a strong health care infrastructure. Coal India Limited (CIL) operates one of the largest industrial healthcare networks in the country comprising 64 hospitals, 300 dispensaries, 69 Occupational Health Centres, 3,769 beds, 1,054 doctors, 939 nurses, 2,301 paramedical staff, 500 ambulances and 19 mobile medical vans, supported by 523 empanelled super-speciality hospitals. All medical services, including for contractual workers, are provided free of cost.

SCCL operates 7 area hospitals, 21 dispensaries with 821 beds, supported by empanelled super-speciality hospitals. All medical services, including for contractual workers, are provided free of cost.

NLCIL has an integrated Occupational Health Services model supported by a 350-bedded hospital, providing comprehensive clinical and occupational health services including pulmonology, dermatology, psychiatry, industrial hygiene and medical sociology.

(ii) A structured **Occupational Health Services (OHS)** framework is functional across all subsidiaries of CIL and SCCL, with dedicated OHS Wings led by trained Occupational Health Physicians.

(iii) Regular **broncho-pulmonary medical camps** are conducted by CIL and SCCL through empanelled hospitals for early detection and management of dust-related respiratory conditions.

(iv) **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) awareness programmes** are organised across CIL subsidiaries and SCCL to promote correct selection and usage of respirators and other protective devices.

These measures collectively aim at prevention, early detection and effective management of mining-related health risks among coal mine workers. There are no plans for transitioning coal workers towards employment in renewable energy sectors.
