

(a) the details of specific industries in MSME sector affected the most by global melt down;

(b) the details of products produced by such industries; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to revive such industries?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The global economic recession had adversely affected export market of Indian industry, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and in particular, major sectors such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery and auto components.

(c) Keeping in view impact of global economic slowdown on MSMEs, Government, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Public Sector Banks had taken several measures for protecting and providing a stimulus to the MSMEs. The important measures taken were: extending loan limit under Credit Guarantee Scheme from Rs.50 lakh to Rs.1 crore, with a guarantee cover of 50 per cent; increasing guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme from 80 per cent to 85 per cent for credit facility upto Rs.5 lakh; interest subvention of 2 per cent in pre and post-shipment export credit to small and medium enterprises (SME) sector; refinance limit of Rs.7,000 crore to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for incremental on-lending to micro and small enterprises (MSE) sector; grant of need-based *ad hoc* working capital demand loans upto 20 per cent of the existing fund-based limits; and reduction in interest rates for borrowing by micro enterprises by 1 per cent and in respect of SMEs by 0.5 per cent.

#### **Mining of dolomite in Bhutan**

1955. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that random mining of dolomite in Bhutan is leading to rise in contamination of rivers flowing in Dooars; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government to stop such contamination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Geological Survey of India [GSI] has not carried out, in recent times, any test to study the level of contamination of rivers flowing in Dooars area due to mining of Dolomite in Bhutan. However, there are some reports of indiscriminate mining of Dolomite in Bhutan leading to destruction of the fragile eco-system in the Terai region of Eastern Himalayas. GSI carried out studies on Preliminary Assessment of flash floods and siltation in the Hashimara Jhora [Doti Nala] area; Pheuntsholing-Jaigaon along the Indo Bhutan Border and also in Jainti area of Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.

(b) As per the information available with GSI, Government of West Bengal has put a ban on the mining of Dolomite in North Bengal citing destruction of the fragile eco-system in the area.

#### **Health facilities for mine workers**

1956. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the most common diseases reported from mines workers;
- (b) what are the on site health facilities mandated by the Ministry to tend to these diseases;
- (c) the details of fine imposed for violation of these norms; and
- (d) how many violations have been detected in the last one year and the details of those sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As per information furnished by Ministry of Labour and Employment (Directorate General of Mines Safety), the most common diseases connected with the mining operations are Silicosis, Pneumoconiosis, Manganese Poisoning - Nervous type, Asbestosis, and Cancer of lung or the stomach or the pleura and peritoneum (*i.e.* Msothelioma).

(b) On site health facilities for medical examination of persons employed in the mining are provided under Rule 29 B of Mines Rules, 1955. As per the recommendations of 9th and 10th Conference on Safety on Mines, health facilities are also extended to the persons engaged in mining activities. As per Mines Rule 43 depending upon the number of persons employed, health facilities as prescribed, in First-aid Centre are to be provided by the miner. As per Mines Rule 44, the health facilities are mandated for different type of mines such as above ground, opencast and below ground.

(c) Section 25 of Mines Act, 1952 requires that the mine owner, agent or Manager to report to such authorities, in the prescribed form regarding the diseases of the persons employed in the mining. The violations of the above provision are liable to be punished under Section 66 of the Mines Act, 1952 with fine which may extend upto 1000/- Rupees.

(d) Total number of violations detected in occupational health in last one year is 310 in the Central Zone and 220 in the Eastern Zone and details are given in Statement (See below).

#### ***Statement***

##### *Violation detected in mines/locations*

#### **Central Zone:**

The following were the mines and locations in which the above violations were detected :

1. Un organised Granite Mines, Villupuram, Tamil Nadu. Naveyli Lignight, Mine - 1,