

**Unclaimed money under ESI**

723. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether huge amount of unclaimed money is lying with ESI; and
- (b) if so, whether Government is taking up any concrete step to utilise such unclaimed money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is a Social Security Organization, which provides Medical/Cash Benefits to Insured Persons (IPs) and their dependent family members during course of sickness/disablement. Statutory contributions are received from employer and employees at the rates prescribed in the ESI Act, 1948 and ESI (Central) Rules, 1950. There are no provisions in the Act to refund contribution to IPs. As such, there is no question of any unclaimed amount lying with ESIC.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

**Safety audits of mines**

724. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of Jharkhand coal mine disaster, Government has decided to conduct safety audits for all the mines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a road map for high standard of mine safety is proposed to be drawn in consultation with Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS);
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether detailed investigation was carried out on the mine accident in Rajmahal area of Eastern Coal Field, if so, what are the preliminary findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The matters relating to safety, health and welfare of persons employed in coal mines are dealt with under the Mines Act, 1952, Rule and Regulations made thereunder.

Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India administers this Act for ensuring safety in coal mines in the country.

The owner, agent, manager and other statutory persons appointed at the mine are required to comply with the provisions of the statute.

Chief Inspector of Mines and Inspector of Mines make inspections and enquires whenever it is required to ascertain whether the provisions of the Mines Act 1952 and of the regulations, rules and bye-laws and of any orders made thereunder are observed in the case of any mine.

In order to prevent re-occurrence of accidents in future, Directorate General of Mines Safety under Ministry of Labour and Employment issues circular for the mining industry for preventive measures to be taken.

Director General of Mines Safety has instructed the Deputy Director General of the respective zones and the nominated owners of all the coal companies to review the condition of slopes both high walls and dumps in open cast mines under the jurisdiction and get the associated risk assessed on top priority basis.

(c) and (d) Road map for high standard of mine safety followed by DGMS:

- Regulating mines through Inspection of mines
- Giving guidelines to industry after Investigation into—
  - (i) Accidents
  - (ii) dangerous occurrences-emergency response
  - (iii) complaints and other matters
- Grant of:
  - ◆ statutory permission, exemptions and relaxations
  - ◆ approval of mine safety equipment, material and appliances

For Safe operation of the mines

- ◆ Interactions for development of safety equipment, material and safe work practices through workshop etc.
- ◆ Development of Safety Legislation and Standards
- ◆ Safety Information Dissemination
- Conduct of examinations for grant of competency certificates for safe working of the mine.
- Safety promotional initiatives including:
  - ◆ Organization of-
- Conference on Safety in Mines
- National Safety Awards

- Safety Weeks and Campaigns
  - ◆ Promoting -
    - safety education and awareness programmes
    - workers' participation in safety management through -
      - workmen's inspector
      - safety committee
      - tripartite reviews
- Simplification and Streamlining of "Approval Policy" and issue of several standard based General Orders (Approvals) to replace Special Approvals.
- Successful launch of paperless computer based statutory examination for metal and coal mines.
- Imparting of specialized refresher training on OSH to key personnel of mining industry and DGMS officers.
- Promoting proactive risk based Safety and Health Management System (SHMS) in Mines.
- Modification in the Methodology of Accident Inquiry followed by inspectors, which, among others, include root cause analysis.

(e) Enquiry into the accident of Lalmatia Coal Mines by Directorate General of Mines Safety is under progress. Further action as required by the law will be initiated after the enquiry.

The accident occurred on 29.12.2016 due to collapse of side dump in Lalmatia Coal Mine in Jharkhand. In the accident 23 persons were affected. Dead bodies of 18 persons have been recovered.

#### **Rehabilitation of child labour**

†725. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of children have been engaged in a variety of jobs across the country;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to take any step for rescue and rehabilitation of such children; and

(c) if so, the details and time-limit thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.