

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 756
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2021

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SALARIES OF MINING WORKERS

756. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

Will the Minister of Mines be pleased to state:

- (a) the impact of COVID -19 on mining workers' salaries and number of layoffs in the year 2020; and
- (b) the number of mining accidents during the last three years and the steps taken by the Ministry to reduce these?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a): As per the provisional information received in Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), no unit effecting lay-offs has been reported in Mining Sector since March, 2020 till 25th January, 2021. NALCO, HCL and MECL have reported that there is no deduction in mining workers' salaries in the year 2020 during COVID-19.

(b): As per MoLE, the number of mining accidents during the last three years is as follows:

	Coal		Non - Coal	
Year	No. of Fatal Accident	No. of Serious accident	No. of Fatal Accident	No. of Serious accident
2018	49	266	48	22
2019	53	193	45	60
2020	39	63	28	20

Data as on 31.12.2020. Data for 2018-2020 are provisional.

To reduce the accidents in the mines Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), undertake inspections of mines and take measures viz. Pointing out contraventions, Withdrawal of permission, Issue of improvement notices, Prohibition of employment, Informal stoppages.

To prevent accidents in the mines the following steps are also taken/being taken by the Government:

- i. To promote and propagate safety awareness in mines, National Safety Awards (Mines), National Conference on Safety in Mines are organized by DGMS. The recommendations of National Conference on Safety in Mines go a long way in enhancing safety of mine workers.
- ii. Workers participation and sensitization in matters of safety are ensured through training in safety and by initiatives like celebration of safety week and safety campaigns, etc.
- iii. Training programmes on Safety are organized among Managers and Supervisors for improving safety standards in mines.
- iv. Introduction of Risk Assessment Techniques and preparation of Safety Management Plan aimed at elimination of risks and to ensure safety of workmen.
- v. Introduction of standard operating procedures to avoid unsafe practices in mines.
- vi. Time to time, DGMS Circulars are issued as guidelines for safe operations in identified thrust areas.
