GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3549
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2022

Black Lung disease among coal workers

3549 Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

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

(a) whether Government has recorded the cases of pneumoconiosis among coal workers in the country;
(b) if so, details of the cases since 2017, year-wise and State-wise;
(c) whether Government has set exposure limit for respirable dust in underground and opencast coal mines, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the details of the health support given to workers diagnosed with pneumoconiosis since the last five years, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b): Coal Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are vigilant and diligently screen all workers at prescribed intervals to detect the occurrence of Black Lung Disease also known as Coal Worker's Pneumoconiosis. The state-wise details of cases of Coal workers Pneumoconiosis since 2017 are as under:

Year	No. of coal worker Pneumoconiosis cases	Name of State /Coal PSU
2017	01	Odisha/Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) Subsidiary of Coal India Ltd (CIL)
	02	Telangana/Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)
2018	01	Telangana/SCCL
2019	-	-
2020	02	Telangana/SCCL
2021	01	Odisha/MCL
	02	Telangana/SCCL

(c): The Coal Mine Regulation (CMR) – 2017 framed under the Mines Act- 1952 has set exposure limit for respirable dust for any workplace belowground or on surface of coal mines. Briefs are as under:

The limit of eight hours time-weighted average concentration of airborne respirable dust in milligrams per cubic meter of air is prescribed as per regulation no. 143 of Coal Mine Regulation (CMR) – 2017. Such limit shall not exceed two, where working is made wholly in a coal seam or where free respirable silica present is less than five per cent and the value arrived at by dividing the figures of ten with the percentage of free respirable silica present in other cases.

(d): the details of the health support given to workers diagnosed with pneumoconiosis since the last five years is as under:

CIL and its subsidiaries- The persons concerned have been transferred and posted in dust free areas, they have access to nearby company hospitals for their health needs, and additionally they are reviewed annually by the Pneumoconiosis board.

SCCL: 1. Depending on the stage of the coal workers pneumoconiosis, three employees were made unfit for further services with all eligible benefits as per the rules including dependent employment. Further, four employees were deployed at non-mining, non-hazardous dust free areas at surface departments.

2. Employees suffering with coal workers pneumoconiosis are regularly reviewed at regular intervals and treated at SCCL hospitals.

3. Employee is referred to higher centers for treatment, if necessary at par with regular employees.

4. Regular review at Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Centers at SCCL to assess the further progression of disease for compensation purpose is done. If any progression of the disease to any employee/retired employee is observed, compensation for further progression of the disease is also paid.

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