

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 805
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.03.2016

SAFETY STANDARDS FOR URANIUM MINING

805. SHRI P. L. PUNIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set up any safety standard for Uranium mining in India, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government makes aware the mining labourers of adverse effect of Uranium on human health; and
- (c) whether the Uranium Corporation of India limited (UCIL) provides protective gears to Uranium mine workers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS
AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR.JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) Yes Sir.
- (b) The safety standards applicable to uranium mining in India are based on various Acts, Rules and Regulations, viz. Atomic Energy Act 1962, Radiation Protection Rules 1971, Atomic Energy (Safe disposal of radioactive waste) Rules 1987, Mines Act 1952, Mines Rules 1955, Metalliferous Mines Regulation, 1961 etc. Statutory regulatory bodies like Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and Directorate General of Mines Safety are empowered for the enforcement of such standards. 'Dedicated Health Physics Units and Environmental Survey Laboratories' under the 'Health, Safety & Environment Group' of 'Bhabha Atomic Research Centre' imparts periodic radiological safety awareness training to labourers engaged in uranium mining regarding effects of uranium on human health. There are also vocational training centres for providing awareness training in mines safety.
- (c) Uranium Corporation of India limited provides various types of protective safety gears, viz. safety shoes, dust respirators, helmets, cap lamps, hand gloves etc. to its mine workers depending on the nature of work in which they are engaged in.
