GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 846
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH JULY, 2014

ACCIDENTAL INSURANCE COVER FOR MINE WORKERS

846. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to bear the health costs of mine workers due to the health hazards associated;
(b) if so, the details of such a plan;
(c) whether Government will provide an accidental insurance to cover mine workers; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES, STEEL AND LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) and (b): Under the Mines Rules, 1955 provisions for medical facilities in the form of first aid stations and first aid rooms for the benefit of persons employed in mines are statutorily mandated. Provisions for facilities to conduct elaborate initial medical examination prior to employment and thereafter periodical medical examination once in every five years irrespective of working status/position of the employee are also available in most of the mines.

Ministry of Labour & Employment is administering five Welfare Funds for beedi, cine and certain categories of non-coal mine workers. The Funds are used to provide financial assistance to these workers for medical treatment and construction of houses.

(c) and (d): ‘Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana’ (RSBY) was launched on 1st October, 2007 to provide smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families (a unit of five) in the unorganized sector. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008.

It is the endeavor of the Government to extend RSBY to all unorganised workers in a phased manner. During the course of implementation, apart from BPL families, RSBY coverage has been extended various categories of unorganised workers including Mine Workers. The decision to extend RSBY to Mine Workers was taken by the Union Cabinet on 04.06.2013.

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