

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:457
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000
URANIUM MINES
RASHID ALVI

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any study has been conducted regarding the hazardous impact of Uranium mines in Bihar and Kerala on environment and mankind;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. On the recommendations of a Committee of the Bihar State Legislative Council, a team consisting of radiation experts from the Health Physics Unit of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and medical officers of the State Government as well as Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL) Hospital, carried out a door-to-door survey of 17 villages around Jaduguda and examined about 4000 persons. This initial survey was followed by detailed pathological and other tests of selected persons at the UCIL Hospital and Tata Main Hospital, Jamshepur. This team finally shortlisted 29 cases for further examination by radiation experts of BARC to assess if these cases could be attributed to effects of radiation. Accordingly, a team of medical officers and health physicists of BARC visited Jaduguda and along with doctors of the State Government, UCIL Hospital and Tata Main Hospital, re-examined the short listed cases. As per the findings of this team of experts, the disease pattern cannot be ascribed to radiation exposure in any of these cases.

In short there is no hazardous impact on account of UCIL's operations on the local people or the environment including plants, fish, food, water, earth etc. in the area.

There are no uranium mines in Kerala. Beach sand minerals containing some monazite are being mined and processed for recovery of heavy minerals.

(c) Appropriate mechanisms are already in place to ensure the safety of mine workers. The radiation levels in and around Jaduguda on account of releases from the mines/plants of UCIL are regularly measured and are found to be within the limits prescribed in this behalf by the Atomic Energy regulatory Board (AERB) which are, in turn, based on the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).