

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1690

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2006

CHRYSTOLE ASBESTOS MINING

Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap;Dangawas Shri Bhanwar Singh;Rawat Prof. Rasa Singh

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

- (a) whether the Chrysotile Asbestos Mining has come to a standstill on account of ban imposed on expansion of asbestos mining and renewal of mining lease;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether thousands of poor rural people have become unemployed as a result of this ban;
- (d) if so, the action taken in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to lift the ban imposed on asbestos mining;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether a huge amount in foreign exchange is being spent for importing Chrysotile Asbestos;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY)

(a)to (d) In view of the deleterious effect of asbestos mining on the health of the workers, the government have ordered the State governments in 1986 not to grant any new mining lease for asbestos (including chrysotile variety) in the country. In June 1993, government stopped the renewal of existing mining leases of asbestos in the country.

(e)&(f) In 1998, Ministry of Mines approved a S&T Project titled `Study of Pollution Level in Asbestos Mines and processing plants in Rajasthan` to be undertaken by Indian Bureau of Mines(IBM) to assess the feasibility of lifting the ban on expansion of asbestos mining through a scientific study of pollution level in asbestos mines and processing plants in Rajasthan and in Andhra Pradesh and to suggest appropriate mitigation measures. The Study recommended that the ban imposed on grant and renewal of mining leases and expansion of mining may be lifted subject to control of pollution level in work environment of various operations and other remedial measures. IBM has been asked to work out necessary safeguards/measures in consultation with Central Pollution Control Board subject to which chrysotile asbestos mining can be permitted so as to ensure worker`s safety. The guidelines have not been finalized yet.

(g)to (i) As per information available, Rs.125.82 crores, Rs.182.74 crores and Rs.198.81 crores (provisional) were spent on import of chrysotile asbestos, during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively .