



PARLIAMENT QUESTION: IMPACT OF URANIUM MINING ON HEALTH

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 23 JUL 2026 3:59PM by PIB Delhi

The Health Physics Unit (HPU) of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), regularly carries out environmental monitoring around the mining facilities to evaluate the impact of uranium mining. UCIL carries out its mining and processing activities under the regulatory oversight of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), with periodic inspections and reviews by AERB, the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), and the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB). Radiological monitoring of workplaces and the surrounding environment have been carried out continuously since the commencement of operations. The monitoring results consistently indicate that radiation exposure to workers and members of the public remains well within the limits prescribed by AERB. A health survey was conducted by Uranium Corporation of India (UCIL) in the surrounding villages of UCIL establishments in Jharkhand in the recent past. The survey covered many villages and a large number of villagers were medically examined. The health issues observed among villagers were typical in nature and similar to those generally found in rural areas with comparable socio-economic conditions. The major finding of all the past studies was that the disease pattern around the uranium mining operation cannot be ascribed to radiation exposure.

UCIL, in coordination with the Health Physics Unit (BARC) and other regulatory agencies is implementing long-term measures for health monitoring, environmental surveillance, and the welfare of the local community in and around the uranium mining areas of Jharkhand. Regular monitoring of workplace radiation, environmental samples (air, water, soil, and food), and occupational exposure is carried out to ensure compliance with the standards prescribed by AERB. Health surveillance and medical examinations of workers are conducted periodically, while health assessment programs for nearby villages are undertaken from time to time.

UCIL also implements various community welfare initiatives under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs, including the provision of safe drinking water, healthcare services, sanitation, education, skill development, and infrastructure development for the local communities. In addition, awareness programs on radiation safety are organized periodically to enhance public awareness which sees participation of villagers, Gram Panchayat representatives, media personnel, school teachers, students, and representatives of UCIL and the Health Physics Unit (BARC).

This information was given by Union Minister of State for Prime Minister's office and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today

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