

① Government of India must focus more on pneumoconiosis policy to protect the lives of labour from the occupational disease in the country. Examine.

Silicosis belongs to the pneumoconiosis family which is incurable & causes permanent disability prevalent among the workers due to the inhalation of dust, leading to death of workers. In this light, the pneumoconiosis policy by the state government is a welcome measure.

Importance of the policy:

① Rajasthan became the first state to notify the ^{silicosis} disease as epidemic, as to Epidemic diseases Act.

② Both haryana & Rajasthan has formulated the pneumoconiosis policy.

③ Policy provides for DMFT fund for the compensation for workers affected by the disease.

④ Over last 2 yrs, 25000 workers has been compensated including 5500 workers already died.

⑤ 'Silicosis potral' → has been created for self registration of workers, thus creating a

worker employer record \rightarrow making it easy to diagnose those diseased workers.

Consistent with the policy

① only 10-20% of around 33100 licensed mines and quarry are registered, while the rest were not making it difficult for diagnosis of workers diseased.

② Mining ^{owners} workers are not creating a record of worker-employer; and also not reporting to DGMS, nodal agency for mining health survey.

③ Labour code \rightarrow OSHWC code provides for '2' crucial sections \rightarrow Section 6 \rightarrow annual health checkup free of cost + Section 20 \rightarrow DGMS to provide ^{District} survey. These sections have been divided with owners not obligated to provide rehabilitation to the workers.

④ 'workers unfit' are removed from the rock, with little compensation (or) not at all.

⑤ Thus owners start using workers to consume rock and removing them when not needed \rightarrow repeating in inhuman cycle.

Measures.

- ① Robust health ecosystem has to be created with periodic health checkup
- ② District has to be linked with DGMS to perform annual health checkup to all workers irrespective of age
- ③ compensation fund under DMEP has to be streamlined and proper accounting mechanism has to be placed
- ④ Manufacturers has to be compensated
- ⑤ Subsidised for Innovative system to reduce the dust with low cost dust removing system.
- ⑥ Spreading mechanisms has to be enforced through Law and prop. to by bringing suitable legislation.

Thus Government of India has to co-ordinate with the state government, and prevent state silicosis disease prevalence, to prevent future epidemics.