

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND CONFERENCE ON SAFETY IN MINES

Held in Calcutta on 9th-10th July, 1966

1. There is a need to ensure close cooperation and coordination between the Central Government and the State Governments in respect of all matters connected with the exploitation and conservation of minerals and safety of residents in mining areas. A suitable coordinating committee should be set up to ensure this.
2. The Conference was informed that on the recommendations of the Dhori Court of Inquiry and suggestions made by the Safety Experts from the U.K. and the ILO, the Chief Inspector of Mines had either already taken or proposed to take action in regard to the following-
 - (a) Provision of safety lamps
 - (b) Conducting of surveys by managements to check the presence of gas
 - (c) Ventilation standards
 - (d) Installation of mechanical ventilators
 - (e) Clearance of coal dust.
3. All possible steps should be taken to ensure that the attendance registers are properly maintained.
4. The Standing Safety Committee should review the position concerning implementation of safety standards from time to time and make suitable recommendations for improvement.
5. Research should play a more positive role in safety matters.
6. Adequate foreign exchange should be made available for importing such essential safety equipment as are not manufactured indigenously.
7. A small committee should be set up to explore the possibility of manufacturing further items of safety equipment within the country.
8. Workers do not report cases of pneumoconiosis to the medical authorities for fear of being declared unfit and losing their jobs. A suitable rehabilitation scheme needs to be formulated and implemented for this category of workers. Doctors should be adequately trained for proper diagnosis of this disease.
9. On the question of rehabilitation and re-employment of other disabled mine workers, it was agreed that a training institute for these persons should be set up to develop in them skills for suitable re-employment.
10. Better coordination between the industry and the Employment Exchanges should be ensured so that workers retrenched on account of redundancy in any mine are given preference for absorption in new mines.
11. The Mines Act and the Regulations should be translated into simple Hindi and other regional languages so that workers can understand them easily.
12. The problems arising out of police inquiries into mining accidents should be pursued with the State Governments.
13. More rescue stations, equipped adequately, should be opened at suitable places to cover the mining areas.
14. All mines should have a 'Suggestions Scheme' whereby mine workers who make suggestions for improving efficiency and safety in the mine can be suitably rewarded.