

Seminar/Workshop on detection of Silicosis and Interaction with the Doctors of Govt. of Meghalaya and also random check on children for suspected cases of silicosis in coal mine areas of Meghalaya from 4th to 7th August, 2014 at Jowai, district headquarter of West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya.

The committee of Secretaries, Govt. of India in its meeting held on 25.02.2013 recommended that "Doctor(s) of Directorate General of Mines Safety may train the local doctors of Govt. of Meghalaya, on detection of silicosis during the workshop proposed in March, 2013. The doctor(s) may also conduct a random check on children suspected to be suffering from silicosis".

In this regard Ministry of Women & Child Development has written a letter to the Director General of Mines Safety, DGMS, Dhanbad vide letter no F.No.24-1/2012-CW-I(Vol. II) dated 16.04.2014, to take necessary action and submit a report to appraise the Cabinet Secretary on the subject cited above.

Directorate General of Mines Safety in association with Govt. of Meghalaya conducted two days workshop on "ILO Classification & Evaluation of Chest Radiographs & Diagnosis of Pneumoconiosis" on 4th & 5th August, 2014 at Jowai, District headquarter of west jaintia hills district, Meghalaya to train local doctors of Govt. of Meghalaya, on detection of silicosis. The workshop was followed by two days random check on children for suspected cases of silicosis in coal mine areas of Meghalaya on 6th & 7th August, 2014.

In the inaugural session District Collector of West Jaintia Hills District Shri P S Dkhar was the chief guest. A total of 30 doctors participated in the workshop. All the participating doctors were from the Meghalaya state only, representing Jaintia Hills, Khasi Hills and Garo Hills. Although confirmation was received from ONGC, no doctor from ONGC, either from their Head office or North- East region reported for participation.

On 6th & 7th August, 2014 as per the programme schedule DGMS team consisting of three officers along with Dr. W Gatphoh (M & HO), Medical & Health officer, Jarain Primary health Centre, West Jaintia Hills District visited Jarain mining area, clusters of coal mine were shown to the team by Dr. Gatphoh and the team visited one of the camp near a mining site in Jarain very close to the primary health centre. The mine located near the camp were deserted as from the inquiry and discussion made by the team with few people of the camp it was revealed that all the mining activity were stopped in the area since last 4 to 5 month due to the Order from NGT(National Green Tribunal). After inquiry, it was also revealed that most of the mine workers of the areas in and adjoining Jarain has left the place for search of their livelihood. The workers employed in the mines were from outside especially from Nepal & Bangladesh as stated by the incharge of the primary health centre, Jarain. Dr. W Gatphoh, in charge of the PHC, Jarain also informed the team of DGMS officers that earlier during actual mining operations in the area, they use to visit frequently these camps made for the workers employed in the mines for distribution of medicine.

DGMS officers along with Dr. Helen J Uriah, In charge IDSP (Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme), Jowai, DHMO, visited Khliehriat Coal mining areas. The team first visited the CHC, Khliehriat (Community Health Center) in the office of the Dr. S Suja Medical & Health Officer, Khliehriat, CHC. District Mining Officer, East Jaintia Hills District Shri N Nongrum also joined the team in the Community health center and the team went to the office of the District Collector Mr. W R Lyngdoh, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District and met with the Additional District Magistrate, Shri S C Laloo as the District Collector was on official tour to Shillong, the team then visited the coal mining areas of the Khliehriat very near to the District Collectorate Office and visited one of the camp made for the workers of the coal mines of the area. From the inquiry with few of the persons located in the camp it was revealed that no mining in the area is going on since last 4 to 5 months and most of the workers has migrated to their native place. and also after inquiry from Dr. S Suja Medical & health officer, CHC, Khliehriat, East Jaintia Hills District, Dr. Haleen J Uriah, In charge IDSP, Jowai DHMO and Dr. Suresh, Medical & Health Officer, Community Health Center, Khliehriat, it was revealed that X-ray machine at the CHC is non functional since last few months and hence no chest radiographs of the patients was available with the CHC. Also the team observed that no mining was going on in and around the Khliehriat mining area. No children were found employed in the mine. Shown below are some of the photographs taken by the team during visit of the mining areas in and around Khliehriat, East Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya:

