

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

The constitution of India contains specific provisions on occupational safety and health of workers. The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) and the Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), the two field organisations of Ministry of Labour and Employment strive to achieve the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India in the area of occupational safety and health in mines, factories and ports.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH:

No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment. The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing: that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength; that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment. The State shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL FACTORY ADVICE SERVICE & LABOUR INSTITUTES, MUMBAI:

The Directorate General, Factory Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Mumbai which is an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, functions as a technical arm of the Ministry in regard to matters concerned with safety, health and welfare of workers in factories and ports/docks. It assists the Central Government in formulation and review of policy and legislation on occupational safety and health in factories and ports; maintains a liaison with Factory Inspectorates of States and Union Territories in regard to the implementation and enforcement of provisions of the Factories Act, 1948; renders advice on technical matters; enforces the Dock Workers (Safety Health & Welfare) Act, 1986; undertakes research in industrial hygiene and industrial psychology etc.; and provides training mainly in the field of industrial safety and

health including one year Diploma Course in Industrial Safety, three-months Post Graduate Certificate course in Industrial Health [Associate Fellow of Industrial Health (AFIH)], six-weeks course in Industrial Hygiene techniques and one month's Specialized Certificate Course in Safety and Health for Supervisory Personnel working in Hazardous Process Industries.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MINES SAFETY, DHANBAD :

The Directorate General of Mines Safety is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, which administers the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder to regulate the objective of Safety, Health and welfares of workers employed in the mines. Apart from administering the Mines Act and Subordinate Legislations thereunder, DGMS also administers other allied legislations. These are as follows:

- Coal Mines Regulations, 1957.
- Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961.
- Oil Mines Regulations, 1984.
- Mines -Rules, 1955.
- Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966.
- Mines Rescue Rules, 1985.
- Mines Creche Rules, 1966
- Coal Mines Pit Head Bath Rules, 1959/Indian Electricity Act, 1910
- Indian Electricity Rules, 1966

SAFETY MEASURES:

With a view to ensure enforcement of necessary safety measures in mines, inspections and inquiries are carried out by the inspecting officers of

DGMS. Apart from inspecting coal, Metalliferous and oil mines, DGMS also undertakes investigation of accidents and dangerous occurrences and makes recommendations for remedial measures to prevent recurrence of similar mishaps in future. DGMS also issue improvement notices and prohibitory orders to restrict or prohibit employment of persons in mines or part of mines.