

National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH)

National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH) was established in 1990 at Kolar Gold Fields for promotion of occupational health and hygiene in mining and mineral based industry. A camp office was established at Nagpur in 2002. The main objectives of the Institute include:

- Promotion of health and prevention of disease among subjects employed in mines and mineral based industries.
- Research & development to ensure safe and healthy extraction of the country's mineral wealth.
- Assessment of health hazards in the work environment of mines and allied industries for regulatory and remedial measures.
- Develop human resources in the field of occupational health, hygiene and safety.

The Institute is providing technical support services in health surveillance, workplace airborne dust monitoring, noise measurements, vibration studies, ergonomics etc to the mines and other industries.

Staff Strength

The Staff position of NIMH is as under (As on 19/2/2010)

Designation	Sanctioned	Existing
Director	1	1
Deputy Director	1	0
Senior Research Officer	1	1
Administrative Officer	1	1
Research Officer	5	3
Sr. Scientific Assistant	4	4
Scientific Assistant	4	4
PA to Director	1	1
UDC	1	1
Driver	1	1
Total	20	17

Facilities available

The institute has state of art infrastructure, equipments and trained manpower to conduct :-

- Initial and periodic medical examinations as per Mines Rules, 1955.
- Clinical investigations like routine hematological tests, blood biochemistry, etc.
- Audiometry, Spirometry, electrocardiography.
- Computerized vision screening.
- Personal exposure assessment for noise, dust and vibration.
- Risk assessment of work environment for dust, noise and vibration.
- Determination of dust for free silica (using FTIR) in airborne Respirable dust, heavy metals (using AAS) etc.
- HRD activities in mine related health and hygiene issues.

The Budgetary position of NIMH is as follows :-

Budget (Plan & Non plan)

Particulars	RE	Actual	BE	RE	BE
	2008-09	2008-09	2009-10	2009-10	*2010-11

(Rs. in Crores)

Recurring Expenditure	1.02	0.65	1.23	1.90	2.30
Non-Recurring Expenditure	0.36	0.30	1.32	1.32	2.33
Total	1.38	0.95	2.55	3.22	4.63

Major activities undertaken (Projects)

National Institute of Miners' Health conducts applied research in the field of occupational health and hygiene persons employed in mining and mineral based Industry. Pursuing the vision of "Safe Mines and Healthy Miners" with the mission "Indian mining and mineral industry free from occupational diseases, the Institute with its limited resources, has carried out following work in the year 2009-10:

Workplace Monitoring in Mines

The Institute carried out equipment vibration analysis and health risk assessment due to exposure to Whole Body Vibration (WBV) in three Limestone mines.

The RMS acceleration values and duration of exposure indicate that 8(50 %) out of 16 operators of HEMM were free from risk of adverse health effect, while 7(44 %) were at possible risk while only 1(6 %) was likely to have health risk. The risk analysis was done as per ISO 2631-1:1997.

Medical Examination

Periodical medical examination (PME) was conducted for 83 employees in two limestone mines. 20.4% workers were found abnormal in lung function tests while 6% had Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL). 12% worker showed sugar in urine indicating diabetes and 9.6% had hypertension. No case of pneumoconiosis was detected.

Projects in Hand

The Institute is presently implementing the following project.

- "Development of a protocol for evaluation of vibration hazard potential of mining equipment": S & T Project of Ministry of Mines.
- "Systematic study of potential biomarkers of occupational diseases in miners": S & T Project of Ministry of Mines.
- "Intervention study in Coal, Bauxite and Zinc Mines": S & T Project of Ministry of Mines.
- Dust, Noise and Vibration studies at Panchpatmali Bauxite Mines of NALCO.