

Welfare schemes for mine workers

New Delhi: December 06, 2005

The Government have enacted three welfare fund acts namely, Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976, Limestone & Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1972 and Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946 for the welfare of mine workers. Several schemes have been formulated under these funds to provide welfare in the sphere of health, education, housing, recreation and water supply. In the health sphere, seven hospitals and 62 dispensaries are functioning to cater to the general health care of the mine workers and their families.

For major diseases of the heart, kidney and cancer, cost of treatment taken in recognized hospitals are reimbursed. For heart ailments the cost reimbursed is to the extent of Rs.1.30 lakh, for kidney Rs.2.00 lakh and for cancer there is no limit. For minor illness like Hernia, Appendectomy, Prostate, Ulcer, Gynaecological disease etc. a maximum of Rs.30,000 in each case is reimbursed. For treatment of TB there exists scheme for reservation of beds in TB hospitals/Sanatoriums apart from reimbursement of cost of domiciliary treatment of TB.

Maternity benefit amounting to Rs.1000/- is given to female workers for first two deliveries. Hospital/dispensaries for the workers run by mines management are given grant in aid for running/maintenance and purchase of equipment and ambulance vans.

In the sphere of education, scholarships ranging from Rs.500/- to Rs.8000/- per annum is given to the children of workers ranging from class V upto persuing professional courses.. For purchase of uniforms, books etc. stipend of Rs.250/- per annum is given to the children of mine workers studying in classes I to IV. Under revised integrated housing schemes, subsidy of Rs.40,000/- per tenement is granted for construction of a house by the mine worker. Grants are given to the mines management for organizing sports, games, social and cultural events in the mining colonies.

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