

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN

(Original Jurisdiction)

C.M.A No. _____/2018

IN

H.R.C NO. 16143-P/2014

**(In the matter regarding Hazardous Emission of Dust by Stone/Marble
Crushing & Grinding)**

**REPORT ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY, PRIMARY & SECONDARY
HEALTHCARE DEPARTMENT**

Respectfully Sheweth,

It is submitted that this Court vide letter No.
225/Addl./AG/SC/ISB dated 21.02.2018 issued directions to file reply with respect
to the above mentioned case.

The report is submitted for information.



Dr. Fouzia Khan

**Deputy Secretary (Vertical Program)
Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department
Government of the Punjab**

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REPORT ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY, PRIMARY & SECONDARY HEALTHCARE DEPARTMENT

Respectfully Sheweth,

That as per the directions, a comprehensive report is hereby submitted for the kind perusal of this Honorable Court on behalf of the Secretary, Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department, Government of the Punjab, Lahore ("P&SHD").

1. That a letter No. PSHD-SO(PHP)/01-100/2017 dated 05.03.2018 was circulated by the P&SHD to all the Chief Executive Officers of the Punjab, Medical Superintendents DHQ Hospital Punjab and Medical Superintendents THQ Hospital Punjab with the clear direction to compile the data of the patients currently suffering industrial/occupational diseases especially Silicosis who have suffered and get treated for industrial/ occupational diseases.
2. That a report was received from all over the Punjab by the P&SHD regarding patients suffering from industrial/occupational diseases in the DHQ Hospitals as well as THQ Hospitals. The number of the patients reported with industrial/occupational diseases are as under:

Patients reported with industrial/occupational diseases from 01-Jan-2017 to 28-Feb-2018	10
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3. That the P&SHD also by using the Information Technology System established District Health Information System ("DHIS") through which every hospital of the Punjab uploads the number of patients visited the respective hospital for treatment. The P&SHD has also added silicosis in dashboard of District Health Information System (DHIS) to develop a database of industrial/occupational diseases patients for research purpose on silica exposures and silica related diseases.

4. That the Labour Department of the Punjab has already submitted a detailed report where following points were referred to the Health Department of the Punjab. That the Health Department of the Punjab has been bifurcated in two departments which are Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department as well as P&SHD. That the DHQ(s), THQ(s), RHC(s) and BHU(s) are under the administrative control of the P&SHD, therefore, to that extent a report is hereby submitted for the kind perusal of this Honorable Court:

x. Diagnostic procedures should be reviewed by an independent medical research committee	The number of Specialized Healthcare Institutions are working under administrative control of Punjab Employees Social Security Institution ("PESSI"). They are dedicated for preventive as well as curative treatment of workers, working in industry and occupational health related domains. As the employees of industries report to the hospitals which are under PESSI in first instant, therefore, the reply of these paras can be replied by the PESSI instead of the P&SHD. However, as and when
xi. The government should provide resources to conduct training programs on diagnostic techniques for silica related disease among physicians/radiologists.	
xii. The extent to which this is covered in the medical school curriculum should be reviewed and expanded.	
xvi. Incentives may be provided to medical professionals for notifying cases.	

xviii. Research on silica exposures, controls and silica related diseases should be a concerted program with the following components:

- a. Conduct research into cost/benefit of dust control and other prevention efforts.
- b. Development of database and information system in occupational health.
- c. Evaluation of effectiveness of the control strategies (periodic medical and environmental monitoring).
- d. Evaluation of management of cases of occupational diseases and without prejudice to the foregoing.

any technical expertise/assistance is required to PESSI, the same would be provided promptly by the P&SHD. Further, the coverage of occupational diseases related to curriculum is the mandate of PMDC which may be taken up at that appropriate form.

Furthermore, any occupational disease related patients who report directly to the P&SHD, they shall be provided with the best available and possible treatment by the P&SHD.


Dr. Fouzia Khan

Deputy Secretary (Vertical Program)
Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department
Government of the Punjab

Through

Additional Advocate General
Government of the Punjab