

MINING WORKING, RADIATION DOSES

657. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for State Development

- (1) How many workers in the mining industry received radiation doses greater than 1, 5, 10 or 20 millisieverts per annum in each of the past five years?
- (2) What was the maximum annual radiation dose received by any single worker in each of the last five years?
- (3) What was the total dose of radiation received by all workers in the mining industry in each of the last five years?
- (4) What are the names, qualifications and duties of the current staff working in the Mines Radiation Secretariat (or equivalent)?
- (5) Are the annual reports on radiation doses in the mining industry available to the public?
- (6) If yes, from where?
- (7) If not, why not?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

I am advised:

- (1) Over the 5-year period from 1996 to 2001, 1290 workers in the mining industry were monitored for internal and external radiation exposure. The Radiation Safety (General) Regulations set exposure limits for radiation workers such that in any 5-year period the average effective dose must not exceed 20 mSv per year and during the same period not exceed 50 mSv over any 12 months.  
  
The doses above natural background levels received by these workers in years 1996 to 2001 can be summarised as -  
  

Number of Workers	Average total effective dose per year (mSv)
0 (0%)	>20
10 (0.8%)	10 to 20
5 (0.4%)	5 to 10
284 (22%)	1 to 5
991 (76.8%)	<1
Total	1290
- (2) Over the five-year period the highest total effective dose of any worker in any one-year was less than 20 mSv.
- (3) This is difficult to answer, however the average annual effective dose to mine workers is 0.8mSv. For comparison, we are all exposed to about 2mSv annually from natural background sources of radiation.
- (4) Two staff in Mining Operations Division are involved in the radiation safety area. The Manager of Occupational Health (B App Sci) and a Scientific Officer – Radiation (B App Sci).
- (5) The Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations require that results of radiation monitoring be reported to the State Mining Engineer. These reports cannot be made available to the public as they contain confidential information, such as worker's personal details.
- (6) Refer to (5)
- (7) Refer to (5)