

Iron-ore mines in Karnataka

†1051. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether iron-ore mines project in Chikmagalur district of Karnataka has been closed;
- (b) if so, since when this project has been closed;
- (c) the reasons therefor and the number of people in that region who have become unemployed;
- (d) whether mining activity is likely to be restarted in this mine; and
- (e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Consequent upon the verdict of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Kudremukh iron ore mining project located in Chikmagalur district in Karnataka has been stopped with effect from 1.1.2006. This was earlier being operated in the name of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, now renamed as KIOCL Ltd. Around 1300 direct employees and around 3,500 indirect employees have been affected by closure of the mining operations.

(d) and (e) Restarting of the mining activities cannot be undertaken without specific clearance from the Hon'ble Supreme Court, hence no specific time frame can be fixed for reopening of the mine.

Investment plans in steel sector

1052. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of major investment plans in the steel sector in Jharkhand;
- (b) the progress made so far;
- (c) whether Government has drawn any time bound implementation programme for these projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) The details of major investment plans, present progress and the schedule of implementations in respect of major steel investment proposals in Jharkhand are given below in the table:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.