

Sick/defunct/abandoned mines

*104. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the State/UT-wise details of sick/defunct/abandoned mines of all types in the country;

(b) whether Government has any policy/programme to rehabilitate these mines including Bharat Gold Mines at Kolar Gold Fields in Karnataka State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of abandoned mines reclaimed/rehabilitated during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the purposes for which such reclaimed mining area is being used?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) to (e) There is no separate classification of sick / defunct or abandoned mines. Provisions for Progressive and Final Mine Closure Plans have been made in the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 (MCDR 1988) for reclamation and rehabilitation of the mining lease area to, *inter-alia* provide for:

(i) mine shall have progressive and final mine closure plans for decommissioning, phased restoration, reclamation and rehabilitation in the mine thereof after cessation of mining operations;

(ii) completion of work before conclusion of mining operations and the abandonment of mine as per the approved mine closure plans, and submit a report;

(iii) financial assurance to be furnished by lessees commensurate with the area to be put to use for mining activities;

Non-compliance of such provisions will lead to forfeiture of the sum assured and other actions under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder.

There were 82 abandoned mines in the country, which exist prior to framing of rules for progressive and final mine closure plans on 10.4.2003. State Governments are responsible for rehabilitation of abandoned mines and such data is not centrally maintained.

Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), a Central Government Public Sector Undertaking has been closed in the year 2001 on account of being uneconomical. The Government has decided to sell assets of BGML through global tender.

Survey in Maharashtra for setting up of industries

†*105. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign company has conducted a survey in the country, particularly in Maharashtra for setting up of industries;

(b) whether the above foreign company is likely to set up industries in certain areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the name of the above company and the terms and conditions specified for setting up the said industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) A number of foreign companies, based on their assessment of relevant factors carry out surveys for establishing their business and industry in India, including in Maharashtra, but do not share the same with the Government as a matter of business confidentiality but also because they are not legally required to do so. It is not possible therefore, either to affirm or deny a survey by a foreign company, more so in case of an unnamed company and whether it is likely to set up industries in any area.

(c) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Visit of US delegation to India

961. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any US delegation has recently visited India to hold consultation and to enter into agreements relating to bilateral trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the consultations held and agreements signed in this regard during the said visit;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.