

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 502
ANSWERED ON 01.12.2021
RESTARTING OF BGML

502. SHRI S. MUNISWAMY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a long-pending demand to re-start the public sector enterprise Bharat Gold Mines Limited in Kolar Karnataka and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has also conducted a feasibility study for the same and yet to take a call on the matter and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made efforts to convince the court and re-start BGML at the earliest in the larger interest of the nation and the distressed employees of BGML and other facts and the possible rehabilitation of over one lakh families through direct or indirect employment once it re-starts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and present status of the matter?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a): Bharat Gold Mines limited (BGML) is a Public Sector Undertaking' incorporated in April 1972 under the administrative control of Department of Mines with its office at Kolar Gold Fields (KGF), Karnataka. Its operation were closed with effect from 01.03.2001 under Section 25(O) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in terms of Ministry of Labour's order dated 29.01.2001. The order was challenged in Karnataka High Court. The Division Bench of Karnataka High Court on 26.09.2003 upheld the closure of BGML. Ministry keeps receiving the representations of ex-employees of BGML and BGML ex-employees associations some of which contains requests for its revival too.

(b): Yes, Sir. A meeting was held to discuss the future course of action w.r.t. BGML wherein it was decided to explore options for BGML. This was needed to be preceded by exploration of dumps and mining area to assess the resources and Techno Economic Feasibility Study of the same. Accordingly, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (**MECL**) was assigned for exploration of dumps & two unmined blocks in KGF, MECL submitted its report in 2018. MECL has also done exploration in Betraswamy block of BGML and submitted its report in March, 2021. Further, Non-Ferrous Technology Development Center (NFTDC), Hyderabad was assigned for Techno Economic Feasibility Study (TEFS) for technology for extraction of gold from tailing dumps of BGML. The TEFS report of NFTDC has been received in January, 2021 Based on these reports Management Consultant has suggested that BGML does not look for operationalization on its own.

(c): No, Sir. In view of the reply given to (b) above.

(d): Does not arise in view of the reply given to (b) and (c) above.
