

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 3
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2022

KOLAR GOLD FIELDS

*3. SHRI S. MUNISWAMY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received the final feasibility study report regarding the restarting of the mining activity at Kolar Gold Fields;
- (b) if so, whether the report suggests that mining activity is not feasible there;
- (c) whether there is a plan to convert these Gold Mines to museums;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is aware that similar Gold Mines in South Africa have been converted to museums;
- (f) if so, whether the Government is also planning to send a team to have a thorough study regarding the same; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 3 FOR ANSWER ON 02.02.2022 ASKED BY SHRI S. MUNISWAMY REGARDING KOLAR GOLD FIELDS.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Management Consultant hired for suggesting way forward in respect of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (a PSU under the M/o Mines) whose operations are closed since 01.03.2001, has submitted its report. Based on the report of the Management Consultant, Monitoring Committee constituted by the Ministry to suggest way forward for BGML, has recommended that the underground mining activities have been abandoned since closure and is flooded with sub-surface ground water. Hence, the existing underground mines are not accessible. Further, the mines were closed due to unviable and uneconomic mining of gold and the lease is expiring in 2023, it would be prudent not to pursue the mining activities by BGML. On expiry of the BGML mining lease, Government of Karnataka may auction or allocate the ore tailing dumps and the two gold mineralization blocks namely Mc Taggart and Oriental lodes which are located within the BGML mining lease for development of the plants for extraction of gold from dumps and exploration and exploitation of the gold mineralization blocks respectively.

(c) & (d): There is no plan in Ministry of Mines to convert BGML mines to museums.

(e): As per available information, Crown Mines, one of the largest and deepest gold mines in Johannesburg in South Africa is converted to Museum.

(f) & (g): There is no such plan under consideration.
