*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?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
Statement referred in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question Number *104 for reply on 04.03.2015 regarding ‘Sick/defunct/abandoned mines’ asked by Shri D. Kupendra Reddy

(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.

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