

Accumulated Losses of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.

1513. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total accumulated losses of Public Sector Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BGML) upto December, 1987;

(b) the reasons for these losses and what suggestions Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. has made to Government; and

(c) the steps Government are taking on the various suggestions given by the Bharat Gold Mines Ltd?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) The total accumulated losses of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) as on 31st Dec. 1987 are about Rs. 51.08 crores (Provisional).

(b) and (c). The major reasons for losses incurred by BGML are:

- (i) virtual exhaustion of reserves of high grade in the three mines at Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) which have been in operation for over hundred years;
- (ii) rise in cost of inputs like salaries & wages; material and power, etc;
- (iii) low productivity due to mining at ultra depths;
- (iv) ground central problems and rock bursts; and
- (v) power supply problems and water scarcity at Yeppamana

mine in Andhra Pradesh.

With a view to make the operations of the Company viable, it has been decided that (a) the three mines of KGF would be phased out over a period of seven years beginning from December 1987 (b) the diversification activities would be expanded and strengthened (c) exploration and exploitation of other shallow gold deposits would be given a fillip (d) surplus manpower would be reduced by redeployment on diversification programmes and by introduction of voluntary Retirement Scheme and, if found unavoidable through retrenchment and (e) BGML would sell its gold in the open market observing the procedure prescribed by the Gold Control Administrator.

Observation of World "No Smoking Day" and Campaign on TV/AIR

1514. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGLAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 7 April, 1988 is being observed as World "No Smoking Day" by the World Health Organisation; and

(b) if so, whether a suitable campaign is proposed to be undertaken on TV/AIR during the first week of April, 1988 for observation of World "No Smoking Day" and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, the Government are aware that 7 April, 1988 is being observed as World No-Smoking Day.

(b) Wide publicity is being given to observe 7th April, 1988 as 'No Smoking Day' to encourage people to desist from use of tobacco products on that day as a part of the