

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
STEEL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:728  
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2009  
SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS BY VISL  
Acharia Shri Basudeb

**Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the operations in Kemmangundi iron ore mines at Karnataka allocated to Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd. (VISL) has been suspended under the direction of Ministry of Environment and Forests:
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether VISL has sought permission from the Government for leasing of captive iron ore mine at Karnataka;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure availability of iron ore to this Public Sector Undertaking?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The iron ore mine at Kemmangundi allotted to Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISP) was in operation since its inception in 1923. This mine, located in the proximity of Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, was closed in the year 2004 on the directions of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(c)to(e): Yes, Sir. VISP had applied for the allotment of a mining lease (area 140 Ha) in NEB Range, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District on 24.1.2007. The Government of Karnataka had recommended to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India that the area be reserved for the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Against the recommendation of the State Government, some of the applicants filed revision applications with the Ministry of Mines, Government of India. The final decision is awaited. The issue has been taken up with the Ministry of Mines for an early decision.