

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3233
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
REOPENING OF GUA IRON ORE MINES IN JHARKHAND
Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Gua Iron Ore Mines in Jharkhand have been closed since June, 2011;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the present status of these iron ore mines; and
- (c) the measures being initiated by the Government to reopen the said mines?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA)

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. Mining work at Gua Ore Mines under the Durgaiburu Mining Lease was suspended with effect from June 2011 for want of forest clearance. Stage-I forest clearance along with one year working permission was granted by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on 14.8.2012 but the production in the mine could not be resumed for want of environment clearance from MoEF.

(c) Regional office of Ministry of Environment & Forests has inspected the site and submitted its report to the Ministry of Environment & Forests on 3.12.2012. Further, in order to expedite the clearances, Cabinet Secretary held a meeting on 20.12.2012 with Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, the Secretary (Steel) and Chairman (SAIL).