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Title: Need for mining of iron ore explored around Kauthimalai region in Tamil Nadu.

\*SHRID. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): Sir, many years, geologists have identified the existence of quality iron ore around Kauthimalai Hill region near Thiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu. In order to take up the mining work, even a hill road was laid in that mountainous region. In recent times, we find that iron and steel industry in the world market have acquired greater importance becoming more capital intensive, attracting more funds. In India, iron ore is being dug out more in Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Orissa, Bihar, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. We are likely to get quality iron ore like quality Salem steel which has a special name in the proposed Kauthimalai Hill region. This would enable industrial growth, generating employment opportunities, developing the backward region with more opportunities to earn foreign exchange at this juncture as there is a heavy demand for iron and steel in the international market.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Iron Steel Ministry alongwith the Ministry of Mines to take up the mining of quality iron ore in Kauthimalai that come under my constituency. I impress upon the Government to accord top priority to this venture.

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\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil