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Title: Regarding the problems faced by the workers of Bharat Gold Mines.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance and invite the attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by the workers of Bharat Gold Mines Limited.

Madam, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the world-famous Bharat Gold Mines is situated in my constituency. This was closed in 2002 and so, more than 15,000 workers are suffering without any work. The houses which have been given to them are 130 years old. The workers are suffering. I have raised this issue with the hon. Minister repeatedly.

The arrears due to the workers have not been paid. A new Mining Policy has come now under which except zinc and coal, all other mining activities come under the States. The State Government is willing to take over the land. More than 12,000 acres of land is available with the Government of India. The Government of Karnataka is planning to start National Investment and Manufacturing Zone in that area. So, if the Government of India hands over the land to the State Government, the State Government is willing to start mining activities or set up other industries so that these 15,000 families can earn livelihood.

Another important issue is that these workers are living in huts. But only 3,000 workers have been allotted huts and nearly 10,000 workers are

yet to be allotted huts. I would request these workers may also be allotted huts at the earliest.