

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *111
FOR ANSWER ON 13/02/2023

CLOSING OF VISL

*111 SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of process of closure of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISL) Bhadravati; and

(b) whether Government has taken any step to uplift the only steel plant of Karnataka, if so, the details thereof?.

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a)&(b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A)&(B) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *111 FOR ANSWER ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2023 TABLED BY SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING CLOSING OF VISL

(a) The Government accorded 'in principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of Visveswaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISP) in October 2016. Subsequently, due to inability expressed by the shortlisted bidders to participate further in the transaction for Strategic Disinvestment, the Competent Authority has approved annulment of Expression of Interest (EOI) for disinvestment and has directed for initiation of process for closure of Visveswaraya Iron & Steel Plant, Bhadravati, and the same has been conveyed vide Office Memorandum of Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) dated 14/10/2022. Accordingly, the process of closure of Visveswaraya Iron & Steel Plant, Bhadravati has been initiated as per Office Memorandum of Department of Public Enterprises dated 31/10/2022.

(b) Steel Authority of India Limited(SAIL), had undertaken a number of initiatives for upliftment of Visveswaraya Iron & Steel Plant, Bhadravati by adding new production facilities. The total investment in the Plant & Machinery has been Rs. 316 crore since VISL became subsidiary of SAIL in 1989.

Some of the major facilities installed and commissioned are as under:-

- i) 530 cum Blast Furnace
- ii) Coke Bunker Heating System
- iii) 2 Pig Casting Machine 300 T each
- iv) 4 Ladle Refining Furnace 22 T each
- v) Bloom Caster in Steel Melting Shop of 1,25,000 TPA capacity
- vi) 30 TPH Pusher type Reheating Furnace for Primary Mill
- vii) Clarified Water Plant, etc.

Efforts were also made towards allocation of a mining lease of 140 ha of Iron Ore Mines in Bellary District of Karnataka vide notification of Ministry of Mines dated 21/10/2011, which could not be operationalized as the matter went under litigation. The same remains unresolved till date.
