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Title: Need to pay the arrears to workers of Bharat Gold Mines.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Sir, Bharat Gold Mines is one of the most important mines in the world. Nearly 80 per cent of the workers belong to Tamil Nadu, the North Arcot District. During the NDA regime, they have closed the Bharat Gold Mines. After the UPA Government came into power, in 2006-07, it has taken a decision to reopen the Bharat Gold Mines. Some of the firm workers went to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court also directed to uphold the decision of the Cabinet. Till today, the decision was to have global tender to protect the workers. The arrears of Rs.52 crore was to be paid to the workers. The decision was that the firm could participate in the global tender. If the highest bidder happens to be the firm, then the workers could run the industry. That was the decision. Till today, no decision has been taken.

The Mines Department of the Government of India requested the State Government to take over the Bharat Gold Mines. The Government of Karnataka also appointed the Mines Secretary of the State Government to find out the viability of taking over of that project.

I would urge upon the Government to pay the arrears of the workers. There are 10,000 workers. It is a 130 year old Mine. People have been suffering a lot. They are living in small huts of 20x10. I would urge upon the Government to at least give those huts to them on a nominal rent as also the arrears. They have not been paid the arrears for the last 30 years. This is my request. The arrears have to be paid by the Government of India.