

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 919**  
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

**CRITICAL MINERALS MINING**

919. SMT. SEEMA DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre of Excellence for Critical Minerals (CECM) would periodically update the critical minerals list for the country, preferably every three years, and formulate the critical mineral strategy accordingly;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to expedite the development of critical mineral mining, processing, manufacturing, and recycling in the country?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Mines had constituted a Committee on 01.11.2022 to identify the critical and strategic minerals. The Committee had, inter-alia, recommended to establish a National Institute or “Centre of Excellence on Critical Minerals” (CECM). The purpose of CECM is to periodically update the list of critical minerals for India, preferably every three years, and to notify the critical mineral strategy from time to time. The committee has recommended 30 minerals are critical for the country, out of which 24 minerals are included in the list of critical and strategic mineral in Part D of Schedule 1 of MMDR Act.

(c): A joint venture company namely Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) has been incorporated with the equity contribution from three Central Public Sector Enterprises namely, National Aluminium Company Ltd, Hindustan Copper Ltd and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd with the objective to ensure consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to Indian domestic market. On basis of commissioned study and selection criteria, KABIL has initiated engagement with several state owned organizations of the shortlisted source countries through Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassies in countries like Argentina and Australia to acquire mineral assets overseas primarily the critical & strategic minerals.

The Central Government has further amended the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957) through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023, whereby 24 critical and strategic minerals have been inserted in part D to the Schedule-I of the MMDR Act, 1957 which have been identified as critical and strategic minerals for the country. Further, the amended Act has also empowered Central Government to auction critical and strategic minerals blocks. Government of India has launched first tranche of auction of these minerals on 29th November, 2023 for 20 blocks. The details of the blocks are at **Annexure**.

In addition, the Ministry of Mines under its ‘Science and Technology Programme’ provides grants for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Start-ups and MSMEs in

Mining, Mineral Processing, Metallurgy and Recycling Sector (**S&T-PRISM**). One of the thrust areas under S&T-PRISM includes focus on extraction of strategic and critical minerals at elemental level.

Furthermore, the Ministry is also actively involved in Mineral Security Partnership (**MSP**) and other multilateral/ bilateral partnerships with various countries to secure the critical mineral demand of India. Under India's G20 presidency, recognizing the significance of the role of critical minerals in global energy transition the Ministry of Mines got it included in the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.

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**Annexure**

The details of Critical Mineral Blocks which have been notified for auction are as detailed below:

<b>Sl No</b>	<b>Block Name</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Mineral</b>	<b>ML/CL</b>
1	Chutia-Nauhatta Glauconite Block	Bihar	Glauconite	CL
2	Pipradih-Bhurwa Glauconite Block	Bihar	Glauconite	CL
3	Genjana Nickel, Chromium and PGE Block	Bihar	Nickel, Chromium and PGE	CL
4	Kundol Nickel and Chromium Block	Gujarat	Nickel & Chromium	CL
5	Muskaniya-Gareriatola-Barwari Potash Block	Jharkhand	Potash	CL
6	Dudhiasol East Nickel and Copper Block	Odisha	Nickel and Copper	ML
7	Babja Graphite and Manganese Block	Odisha	Graphite and Manganese	ML
8	Biarapalli Graphite and Manganese Block	Odisha	Graphite and Manganese	ML
9	Akharkata Graphite Block	Odisha	Graphite	CL
10	Vellakal Central (Segment-A) Molybdenum Block	Tamil Nadu	Molybdenum Ore	CL
11	Nochchipatti Molybdenum Block	Tamil Nadu	Molybdenum Ore	CL
12	Velampatti North A & B Molybdenum Block	Tamil Nadu	Molybdenum Ore	CL
13	Kurunjakulam Graphite Block	Tamil Nadu	Graphite	CL
14	Iluppakudi Graphite Block	Tamil Nadu	Graphite	CL
15	Mannadipatti Central Molybdenum Block	Tamil Nadu	Molybdenum	CL
16	Marudipatti (Central) Molybdenum Block	Tamil Nadu	Molybdenum	ML
17	Kurchha Glauconite Block	Uttar Pradesh	Glauconite	CL
18	PahadiKalan - Gora Kalan Phosphorite Block	Uttar Pradesh	Phosphorite	CL
19	Salal-Haimna Lithium, Titanium and Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite) Block	UT: Jammu and Kashmir	Lithium, Titanium and Bauxite(Aluminous Laterite)	CL
20	Katghora Lithium and REE Block	Chhattisgarh	Lithium and REE	CL

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