

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 113
ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024

LAUNCHING THE CRITICAL MINERAL MISSION

113# SHRI CHUNNILAL GARASIYA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to launch Critical Mineral Mission to oversee domestic production, recycling of critical minerals and acquisition of important mineral assets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c) In order to make India self-reliant in critical minerals, a multipronged approach is being taken by the Ministry. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, has been amended in 2023. The Central Government has been empowered to auction blocks for critical and strategic minerals. Additionally, a new mineral concession namely, Exploration Licence has been introduced for 29 critical and deep-seated minerals, which will permit the licensee to undertake reconnaissance and prospecting operations for these minerals.

The Ministry of Mines has also entered into bilateral agreements with countries rich in critical minerals. KABIL, a JV of Ministry of Mines, has acquired an area of 15703 Ha in the Catamarca province of Argentina, for exploration and mining Lithium.

Union Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2024-25 has announced the setting up of a Critical Mineral Mission for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets on 23rd July, 2024. The Mission aims to strengthen India's Critical Mineral value chain encompassing all stages, starting from mineral exploration, mining to beneficiation, processing and recovery from end-of-life products and ensure self-sufficiency in meeting the industrial demands. The Ministry has done consultations with stakeholders on the proposed Mission.
