

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1544
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

STRENGTHENING IN THE COUNTRY'S MINERAL EXPLORATION SECTOR

1544 # SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:
SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the major initiatives implemented by Government, particularly through the National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal and scheme for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses, in order to promote mineral exploration in the country; and
- (b) the role of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) in supporting mineral exploration and encouraging innovation among start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the mining sector?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal is a cloud-based portal created to expedite and facilitate mineral exploration coverage of the country by hosting all baseline and exploration-related geoscientific data in a single GIS platform, making it available to all the stakeholders and disseminate the geospatial data in a single window system. Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the nodal agency for NGDR portal and it is funded by National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET). Currently, 9171 reports of GSI, 395 reports of stakeholders and data related to more than 35 layers are available in NGDR portal for download to registered users.

As regards the scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses, NMET has launched the scheme for holders of exploration licences where NMET will partially reimburse exploration expenses incurred by Exploration Licence Holders upto 50% of direct cost with ceiling of ₹20 Crores. Also, NMET supports holders of Composite Licences with the scheme for Partial reimbursement of exploration expenses upto 50% of direct cost incurred for exploration with ceiling of ₹8 Crores.

Furthermore, NMET also provides Exploration Incentive (EI) of 25% of the approved cost of the project for G4 items in Greenfield areas for gold, basemetals, other precious minerals, strategic/ critical minerals and fertilizer minerals if the block is upgraded from G4 to G3 Stage.

(b): Since its inception in August 2015, NMET has funded 471 projects with an approved cost of 2721.97 Crore including regional and detailed exploration projects along with baseline

survey, financial assistance to Central agencies and State Governments, incentives to States and Mineral Exploration by NEAs and NPEAs, etc. NMET is promoting research and innovation in Start-ups, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Individual Innovators by funding projects under the Science and Technology (S&T) Prism Programme. Till date, NMET has funded 11 Projects with approved cost of ₹12.46 Crore.
