

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2344 #
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024
MINERALS IN BIHAR

2344 # SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the minerals being mined in Bihar, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (b) whether Government is conducting any survey regarding the availability of new minerals in the State of Bihar, if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to check illegal mining in Bihar, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether there is a greater possibility of mineral wealth in the districts of Bihar that are adjacent to Jharkhand, if so, whether Government is formulating any plan for mining in these districts?

ANSWER

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

- (a) One major mineral limestone block is currently operational in Rohtas district.
- (b) Yes Sir. The Government of India through the Geological Survey of India (GSI) is conducting surveys to assess the availability of new minerals in Bihar. During Field Season (FS) 2024-25, GSI has taken up 12 exploration projects in Bihar for mineral commodities such as REE, REE/RM (rare metals), limestone, gold, lithium/ niobium/tantalum etc. in the State. The details are given at Annexure I.
- (c) The Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 empowers the State Government to frame rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Therefore, the control of illegal mining is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government supports and augments these efforts through policy initiatives from time to time. In the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015, the penalty for illegal mining was made stringent with imprisonment for a term of upto 5 years and fine which may extend upto Rs. 5 lakhs per hectare. Additionally, the Mining Surveillance System (MSS), developed in collaboration with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), uses satellite technology for real-time monitoring of illegal mining activities.

(d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducts the exploration activities in various States to identify mineral resources as per the annual field season program. During the Field Season 2024-25, GSI has undertaken projects in districts adjacent to Jharkhand, including Gaya, Jamui, Bhagalpur, Rohtas, and Nawada for minerals such as REE, REE/RM (rare metals), limestone, gold, lithium/ niobium/tantalum etc.

Annexure-I

Field Season 2024-25					
Sl No	State	District	Name of Mineral Block / Area/ Belt	UNFC Stage	Mineral Commodity
1	Bihar & Jharkhand	Gaya and Chatra	Bishunpur-Jaigir-Bhatua Chhati	G4	REE
2	Bihar	Jamui and Banka	Simarka, Sabalpur, Kariwapathal	G4	REE, RM, basemetal
3	Bihar	Banka	Bhukiya, Sonari, Barwasini and Kharwajor	G4	REE & RM
4	Bihar	Jamui and Banka	Gorhiyarwa –Bela	G4	REE & RM
5	Bihar	Jamui	Kairi-Jhura-Murbaro	G4	Lithium, Niobium, Tantalum and associated strategic minerals (REE, Rare Metals)
6	Bihar	Rohtas	Bhurwa-Chunhatta	G3	Limestone
7	Bihar	Banka	Pindara	G2	Basemetal
8	Bihar	Nawada	Manbhagwa-Pelmo	G4	Lithium, REE, RM
9	Bihar	Jamui	Sangwariya	G3	REE & RM
10	Bihar	Jamui	Karmatiya, Boutha and Mahugaon, Sono	G4	Gold
11	Bihar	Bhagalpur	Kahalgaontola	G4	Coal
12	Bihar	Bhagalpur	Khawaspur	G4	Coal