

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2345**  
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

**LITHIUM MINING IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

2345 SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the second auction for Jammu and Kashmir's lithium blocks failed to attract any bids, and if so, the steps taken by Government to address this;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the quality and viability of the lithium deposit in Reasi district, and the steps that are being taken to resolve concerns over its composition;
- (c) whether Government is making efforts to ensure that country's lithium reserves are fully utilized, considering their importance for the clean energy transition; and
- (d) the timeline for awarding mining rights for lithium in Jammu and Kashmir?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) Salal-Haimna Lithium, Titanium and Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite) Block in Jammu & Kashmir has been explored up to G3 level. The second attempt of the auction of the block has been annulled due to non-receipt of bids. Mineral samples collected by Geological Survey of India (GSI) from the block have been sent to IBM, Nagpur and IMMT, Bhubaneswar for conducting beneficiation study. Apart from the already explored Salal- Haimna block, two more preliminary exploration (G3 stage) projects on lithium in Salal East and Panasa areas of Reasi district have been taken up by GSI in 2024-25.

(c) The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 has been amended by the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023 with effect from 17.08.2023. The Amendment Act, *inter alia*, inserted section 11D in the Act which empowers the Central Government to exclusively auction mining leases and composite licenses in respect of 'critical and strategic minerals' specified in Part D of the First Schedule of the Act which includes Lithium also. Katghora Lithium and REE block, Chhattisgarh has been successfully auctioned. Additionally, GSI has increased focus on exploration of critical minerals including Lithium.

(d) Auction of Lithium blocks in J&K is dependent on the reports of ongoing exploration investigations.

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