

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 723
ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

RARE EARTH MINERALS

723 SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has signed any international agreements to secure supply chains for critical minerals for India;
- (b) proposed steps to secure critical minerals via recycled/ reused e-waste and battery waste;
- (c) whether Government is aware of recent EU Directive towards banning export of precious, critical bearing waste and the long standing ban in China; and
- (d) stance of Government on ban of blackmass export from India to ensure critical minerals remain in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) Ministry of Mines has been working to strengthen India's position in mining sector including critical minerals. In the interest of developing bilateral cooperation with countries having rich mineral resources, the Ministry has entered into bilateral agreements with the Governments of a number of countries such as Australia, Argentina, Zambia, Peru, Zimbabwe, Bolivia, Morocco, Mali, Colombia, Chile, Mozambique, Malawi, Cote D'Ivoire and International organizations such as International Energy Agency (IEA).

Ministry of Mines is also engaging on various multilateral and bilateral platforms such as Minerals Security Partnership (MSP), the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), and initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) for strengthening the critical minerals value chain.

(b) Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance in the Union Budget 2024-25 announced the setting up of a Critical Mineral Mission for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets. In addition, the Government has eliminated the import duty on waste & scrap of six critical minerals, which will help promote recycling in these minerals.

Further, a draft framework to encourage the Indian industry to develop recycling capacity in the country for the separation and production of critical minerals from secondary sources through recycling is initiated.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The stance of the Government is reflected in the various waste management rules under the Extended Producer Responsibility framework, aimed at managing hazardous waste and promoting domestic recycling.
