

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO – *241
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

AUCTIONS FOR EXPLORATION OF BLOCKS OF CRITICAL MINERALS

*241. SHRI SAKET GOKHALE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number and details of auctions for exploration of blocks of critical minerals that have been conducted by Government between January 2022 to January 2025; and
- (b) details of the bids received during these auctions and also the number from these blocks that have been sold?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 241 REGARDING 'AUCTIONS FOR EXPLORATION OF BLOCKS OF CRITICAL MINERALS' ASKED BY SHRI SAKET GOKHALE, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR REPLY ON 24TH MARCH 2025.

(a) and (b): The State Governments conduct auction of mineral blocks as per the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2015. The MMDR Amendment Act 2023 has empowered the Central Government to exclusively auction mining leases and composite licences (prospecting licence-cum-mining lease) in respect of any 'critical and strategic mineral' specified in Part D of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act.

A total of 44 critical mineral blocks (8 MLs and 36 CLs) were auctioned, out of which 20 critical mineral blocks (4 MLs and 16 CLs) were auctioned by State Governments from January 2022 till MMDR Amendment Act 2023. Post MMDR Amendment 2023, the Central Government has successfully auctioned 24 critical mineral blocks (4 MLs and 20 CLs). A total of 48 blocks were put on auction in 4 tranches by Central government for which 125 bids were received and 24 were successfully auctioned.
