

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1237
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

**EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MANGANESE RESERVES IN WEST
BENGAL**

1237. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of Mines be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to explore and assess manganese reserves in Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, West Midnapore, or other parts of the State of West Bengal;
- (b) whether Government plans to collaborate with the Geological Survey of India, State authorities, or private stakeholders for systematic exploration and development of these reserves;
- (c) whether MOIL has submitted any proposals for exploration or development of manganese deposits in West Bengal, and the number of letters written to the State Government in this regard; and
- (d) whether there are proposals to establish manganese-based processing units in the State to enhance value addition and boost local economic development?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Geological Survey of India (GSI) carries out mineral exploration activities for various mineral commodities, including manganese, in various parts of the country as per its annual field season programme. From field season 2019-20 to 2023-24, GSI carried out 28 mineral exploration projects in West Bengal for various minerals such as Basemetal, Copper, Gold, Manganese, Rare Earth Elements, Rare Metals, Tin, Tungsten, Graphite etc. in Purulia, Bankura, Jhargram, Kalimpong, Darjeeling and West Medinipur districts of West Bengal. For Manganese, GSI during field season 2020-21, carried out one G4 stage exploration in Chaukisar Pahar area of West Medinipur district. However, no resource has been augmented from this project.

(b): The proposals for coordination and collaboration with state Directorate of Mines and Minerals (DMM), West Bengal, private stakeholders and GSI are deliberated in the Central Geological Programming Board (CGPB) and State Geological Programming Board (SGPB) platforms for planning of future mineral exploration activities in the state for which requests are received from the DMM.

(c): As per the information received from MOIL, they held a meeting with West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL) in June 2022 to discuss the possibilities of manganese mine development in West Bengal. The series of correspondences made between MOIL and WBMDTCL in this regard is placed at Annexure I.

(d): The feasibility of establishing manganese based processing units may be contingent upon the quantity and quality of the identified manganese resources in the State.

Chronological Events between MOIL and WBMDTCL

- **15.06.2022:** An initial meeting was held with WBMDTCL to discuss the possibilities of manganese mine development in West Bengal
- **11.07.2022:** MOIL submitted a brief proposal for an exploration program of manganese minerals in Midnapur and Purulia districts to WBMDTCL.
- **31.03.2023:** MOIL requested WBMDTCL for a joint inspection to understand the geology of the potential areas.
- **19.05.2023:** The Government of West Bengal requested MOIL to inform them of the inspection schedule.
- **09.06.2023:** MOIL informed the Government of West Bengal of the proposed date for the site inspection.
- **Subsequent Correspondence:** MOIL has followed up with the Government of West Bengal through letters dated 24.07.2023, 30.09.2023, 20.09.2024 and 5.12.2024 requesting confirmation of the site inspection date. However, a response from the Government of West Bengal is yet to be received.