

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 1240
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

AUCTION OF LITHIUM MINING BLOCKS

1240. SHRI A. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of Mines be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in 2023 huge lithium deposits were found in Reasi District of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir which was termed as game changer in energy transition;
- (b) whether the blocks containing lithium were placed for auction/bid;
- (c) if so, in total the number of blocks that were placed for auction and the manner in which they were actually awarded on contract for extraction of lithium;
- (d) whether only few blocks could be auctioned;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the action plan of Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) Lithium deposits have been found in Reasi District of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. These blocks have been explored up to G3 level.

(b) to (e) Yes. Two blocks, namely Salal-Haimna Lithium, Titanium and Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite) block in Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir and Katghora Lithium and REE block, in Korba district of Chhattisgarh were placed for auction. Out of these blocks, Katghora Lithium and REE block was auctioned successfully, while the auction of Salal-Haimna Lithium, Titanium and Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite) block has been annulled due to non-receipt of bids.

(f) 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. As on date Katghora Lithium and REE block, Chhattisgarh has been successfully auctioned. Additionally, Geological Survey of India has increased focus on exploration of critical minerals including Lithium.
