

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1868
ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

COLLABORATION WITH SRI LANKA ON MINERALS EXPLORATION

1868. SHRI IRANNA KADADI:
DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:
SMT. REKHA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific benefits for India in collaborating with Sri Lanka on mineral exploration and mining;
- (b) the key provisions of the MoU, and the manner in which it will facilitate bilateral collaboration in mineral exploration;
- (c) the measures that are being considered to ensure that mineral exploration and mining activities under this partnership are environmentally sustainable;
- (d) whether Government is considering joint research and technology-sharing initiatives to improve mining and mineral processing in both countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Sri Lanka is well-endowed with industrial minerals like Graphite, Ilmenite, Rutile, Zircon and phosphate, which are among the minerals identified as critical minerals for India. These minerals are essential for their uses in green technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, and electric vehicles which are integral to the transition toward clean energy and a low-carbon economy.

With the untapped mineral reserves of Sri Lanka, India stands to benefit significantly in boosting its resource availability of critical minerals for domestic Industry. Hence, the Ministry of Mines is

actively engaging with Government of Sri Lanka to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for enhanced cooperation in the areas of exploration, mining and capacity building.

(c): The National Mineral Policy, 2019, prioritizes sustainable mining by integrating environmental, economic, and social considerations into all mining decisions. It focuses on mitigating environmental impacts using scientific norms and afforestation practices, while encouraging the use of renewable energy to reduce pollution and carbon footprints. The policy also includes incentives for eco-friendly practices and provides training for workers to address environmental concerns, ensuring mining operations are both responsible and sustainable.

This is the benchmark against which all mining operations domestic or abroad are to be evaluated in terms of their comparative performance on sustainable development framework and enforce commitment on part of the mining companies to adopt sustainable development practices for achieving environmental and social goals.

(d) and (e): The proposed MoU contains provision for facilitating joint research and technology sharing initiatives to improve mining and mineral processing in both countries.
