

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2661
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

RESERVES AND EXTRACTION OF CRITICAL MINERALS

2661. SHRI SAKET GOKHALE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated size of reserves of lithium, nickel, cobalt and other critical minerals available in the country that are open to exploration;
- (b) the details of exploration licenses for lithium, nickel, cobalt and other critical minerals in the country that have been granted by Government during the last five years and whether that has led to the discovery of new reserves; and
- (c) the details of licenses granted to Indian companies in other countries for exploration and extraction of lithium, nickel, cobalt and other critical minerals?

ANSWER

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

(a): The cumulative resources of various critical minerals augmented by GSI since the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 are as follows:

(in million tonne)

Sl. No	Ore of Commodity	Resource	Sl. No.	Ore of Commodity	Resource
1.	REE-RM	310.94	9.	Vanadium	116.46
2.	Niobium	282.0	10.	Molybdenum	3.6
3.	PGE	1.0	11.	Tungsten	21.5
4.	Graphite	72.91	12.	Lithium	12.3
5.	Glauconite/Potash	1496.0	13.	Nickel	4.8
6.	Phosphorite	31.88	14.	Cobalt	275 (tonne)
7.	Titanium	41.0	15.	Tin	3.0
8.	Gallium	74.0			

(b): As per the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2015, the State Governments conduct auction of mineral blocks. The MMDR Amendment Act, 2023 has empowered the Central Government to exclusively auction Mining Leases (ML) and Composite Licences (CL)(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. From 2020-21 till MMDR Amendment Act 2023, 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. Post MMDR Amendment 2023, the Central Government has auctioned 24 critical mineral blocks (4 MLs and 20 CLs) till date.

(c): The Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL), a joint venture company under the Ministry of Mines has signed an Exploration and Development Agreement on 15.01.2024 with the State owned company of Catamarca province of Argentina, CAMYEN S A and has obtained exclusivity rights for exploration, development and mining in 5 brine type Lithium Blocks, covering an area of 15,703 hectares, in Fiambala division of Catamarca province of Argentina.
