

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 964
ANSWERED ON 13/02/2025

CONTRIBUTION OF DAE IN MINERALS AND CHEMICALS SECTOR

964. SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has any contribution in the minerals and chemicals sector; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) & (b) Yes. The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), has significant contribution in the Minerals Sector, particularly in the exploration, identification, evaluation and augmentation of atomic and critical minerals resources viz. uranium, thorium, niobium, tantalum, beryllium, lithium, zirconium, titanium and rare earth elements to support the Nuclear Power Programme of the country. IREL (India) Limited, a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Department of Atomic energy, has the mandate to produce atomic minerals including Rare Earth bearing mineral and refined rare earths at its plants in the states of Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

As on December, 2024; AMD has established:

- U-oxide resource of **4,28,300** tonne (t) in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra
- **1,309.42** Million tonne (Mt) Beach Sand Minerals (including inland placers) resource containing 13.15Mt monazite, 706.24Mt ilmenite, 278.48Mt sillimanite, 217.83Mt garnet, 38Mt zircon, 35.98Mt Rutile and 19.75 Mt leucoxene.
- **1.23**Mt Rare Earth Elements Oxide (REO) resource from hard rocks in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

- **2,000t** heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) containing ~2% xenotime (yttrium mineral) in the riverine placer deposits of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.
- **1,800t** lithium oxide (Li_2O) from hard rocks in Karnataka.
