

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. #1693
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

ROLE OF NCM IN EXPLORATION OF CRITICAL MINERALS IN UP

1693 # SMT. DARSHANA SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the principal objectives and targeted goals of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCCM), particularly in the context of States like Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether any specific scheme has been formulated under the NCCM for identification, survey or exploration of critical minerals (such as rare earths, lithium, zinc etc.) in the State of Uttar Pradesh; and
- (c) whether the Central Government is considering prioritising mineral-rich areas in the State of Uttar Pradesh, such as Sonbhadra, Lalitpur and Mirzapur, under the NCCM?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Objectives of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) are -

- i. To secure India's critical mineral supply chain by ensuring mineral availability from domestic and foreign sources.
- ii. Strengthening the value chains by enhancing technological, regulatory, and financial ecosystems to foster innovation, skill development, and global competitiveness in mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recycling.

Anticipated targets of the Mission:

Key heads	Total (FY 2024-25 to 2030-31)
Domestic Critical Mineral Exploration Projects	1200
Foreign Critical Mineral Mines	50
Incentive scheme for recycling - total materials recycled (kt)	400
Patents in critical mineral value chain	1000
Skill development	10000
Mineral Processing Parks	4
Centre of Excellence	3
Mineral Stockpile (cumulative)	5

The National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) is a pan-India initiative to ensure the secure supply of critical minerals vital for economic growth, energy transition, and strategic sectors. While it is not State-specific, all regions, including Uttar Pradesh, are considered based on geological potential. No separate scheme has been formulated for individual States, and exploration is prioritised in mineral-rich regions based on resource potential, including in Uttar Pradesh.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out 195 critical mineral exploration projects in 2024–25. During 2025-26, GSI has taken up 230 projects across the country. Among these, four projects were carried out in Uttar Pradesh in 2024–25, and four more projects have been taken up during 2025–26, targeting minerals such as nickel, tungsten, glauconite, zirconium, and Rare Earth Elements- Rare Metals (REE-RM).

(c) In 2025-26, GSI is conducting reconnaissance exploration for REE, RM, and zirconium in Sonbhadara and Lalitpur districts of Uttar Pradesh.
