

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1705
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

RARE EARTH MINERALS IN WEST BENGAL

1705. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the rare earth minerals discovered the State of in West Bengal, details of their location, estimated reserves, and commercial viability;
- (b) whether any ongoing or planned exploration projects, including in Purulia, are being conducted to identify additional rare earth mineral deposits in the State, and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any assessment of the economic and strategic potential of rare earth minerals in West Bengal, and steps being taken for their sustainable extraction and utilization; and
- (d) measures being implemented to develop rare earth mineral processing facilities to support India's domestic needs and reduce dependence on imports?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of the Ministry of Mines, took up 16 exploration projects on REE (both as primary & associated commodity) in Purulia and Darjeeling districts of West Bengal. During current field season 2025-26, 10 mineral exploration projects on REE (both as primary & associated commodity) have been taken up by GSI in Purulia and Bankura districts.

Since the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulations (MMDR) Amendment Act, 2015, GSI has established the following resource of REE in West Bengal:

District	Field Season	Block	UNFC Stage	Resource	Grade
Purulia	2020-21	Kalapathar-Raghudih Block	G3 (333)	0.67 million tonnes	0.19% total REE (at 0.1% total REE cut off)

To consider the above block for auction, the State Government is yet to furnish required information.

(d): The Government has also launched National Critical Mineral Mission in January, 2025 with an aim to secure a long-term sustainable supply of critical minerals and strengthen country's critical mineral value chains encompassing all stages from mineral exploration and mining to beneficiation, processing and recovery from end-of-life products. The Ministry of Mines under its S&T programme also funds Research and Development projects in critical and strategic minerals processing.
