GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1706**
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

## AVAILABILITY OF CRITICAL MINERALS IN THE COUNTRY

1706. SHRI A. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of critical minerals identified by Government as essential for national growth and strategic sectors;
(b) the availability and domestic reserves of these critical minerals in the country;
(c) whether Government has formulated any policy or strategy for exploration, development, and securing supply chains of critical minerals;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the manner in which the current and future requirements of these critical minerals are being met, including through imports, strategic partnerships or domestic initiatives?

## ANSWER

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

(a) A list of 24 critical & strategic minerals has been included in part-D of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 (Annexure-I).

(b) As per the National Mineral Inventory (NMI) as on 01.04.2020, the reserves/resources of some of the critical minerals in the country is enclosed as Annexure-II.

(c) & (d) On 29 January 2025, the Government has approved setting up of the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) with an expenditure of ₹16,300 crore for the period from 2024–25 to 2030–31, to secure a long-term, sustainable supply of critical minerals and strengthen India's value chains across all stages- from exploration and mining to beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products.

Under the aegis of NCMM, Geological Survey of India (GSI) has intensified the exploration of critical and strategic minerals. GSI has carried out 195 critical mineral exploration projects in 2024–25. During 2025-26, GSI has taken up 230 projects for various critical minerals across the country.

(e) Currently India is import dependent on many critical minerals. To meet current and future requirements of critical minerals, the Government has adopted a comprehensive strategy. This

includes legislative reforms through amendments to the MMDR Act and Rules thereunder, and the setting up of NCMM. NCMM provides a dedicated framework for exploration, production, recycling, and overseas acquisition. As part of the Union Budget 2024-25 and 2025-26 announcements, import duties have been eliminated for most of the critical minerals, including scrap of some critical minerals to diversify import source and to ensure availability of critical minerals to meet their current and future requirements.

India has set up a Joint Venture company named Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) for exploring critical mineral assets in foreign countries. KABIL has signed an Exploration and Development Agreement with CAMYEN, a state-owned enterprise of Catamarca province of Argentina, for exploration and mining of five Lithium Brine Block in Argentina in an area of 15703 Ha. The Ministry of Mines is also engaged in various multilateral and bilateral platforms like Mineral Security Partnership (MSP), Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), India-UK Technology and Security Initiative (TSI), Quad etc. for strengthening the critical minerals value chain.

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**Annexure-I**

| **Critical and Strategic Minerals specified in Part D of First Schedule of the MMDR Act [24 minerals]** |
|---|
| 1. Beryl and other beryllium bearing minerals. |
| 2. Cadmium bearing minerals. |
| 3. Cobalt bearing minerals. |
| 4. Gallium bearing minerals. |
| 5. Glauconite. |
| 6. Graphite. |
| 7. Indium bearing minerals. |
| 8. Lithium bearing minerals. |
| 9. Molybdenum bearing minerals. |
| 10. Nickel bearing minerals. |
| 11. Niobium bearing minerals. |
| 12. Phosphate (without uranium). |
| 13. Platinum group of elements bearing minerals. |
| 14. Potash. |
| 15. Minerals of the "rare earths" group not containing Uranium and Thorium. |
| 16. Rhenium bearing minerals. |
| 17. Selenium bearing minerals. |
| 18. Tantalum bearing minerals. |
| 19. Tellurium bearing minerals. |
| 20. Tin bearing minerals. |
| 21. Titanium bearing minerals and ores (ilmenite, rutile and leucoxene). |
| 22. Tungsten bearing minerals. |
| 23. Vanadium bearing minerals. |
| 24. Zirconium-bearing minerals and ores including zircon. |

**Annexure-II**

**Reserves/resources of Critical Minerals as per NMI as on 01.04.2020**

| S. No. | Mineral | Unit | Reserve | Remaining Resources | Total Resources |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Antimony | | | | |
| | *Ore* | Tonne | 7503 | 11180 | 18683 |
| | *Metal* | Tonne | 75 | 180 | 255 |
| 2. | Cobalt (Ore) | Million Tonne | 0 | 45 | 45 |
| 3. | Graphite | Tonne | 85,63,411 | 20,30,60,176 | 21,16,23,587 |
| 4. | Molybdenum | | | | |
| | *Ore* | Tonne | 0 | 2,72,03,398 | 2,72,03,398 |
| | *Contained MoS2* | Tonne | 0 | 16,891 | 16,891 |
| 5. | Nickel Ore | Million Tonne | 0 | 189 | 189 |
| 6. | Rock Phosphate | Tonne | 3,08,76,093 | 28,03,77,392 | 31,12,53,485 |
| 7. | Platinum group of metals (PGM) | Tonne of Metal Contained | 0 | 21 | 21 |
| 8. | Potash * | Million Tonne | 0 | 23,091 | 23,091 |
| 9. | Rare Earth Elements (REE) | Tonne | 0 | 4,59,727 | 4,59,727 |
| 10. | Tin | | | | |
| | *Ore* | Tonne | 2,101 | 8,37,20,794 | 8,37,22,895 |
| | *Metal* | Tonne | 974 | 1,02,783 | 1,03,757 |
| 11. | Titanium @ | Tonne | 1,59,98,625 | 41,11,08,526 | 42,71,07,150 |
| 12. | Tungsten | | | | |
| | *Ore* | Tonne | 0 | 8,94,32,464 | 8,94,32,464 |
| | *Metal* | Tonne | 0 | 1,44,650 | 1,44,650 |
| 13. | Vanadium | | | | |
| | *Ore* | Tonne | 0 | 2,46,33,855 | 2,46,33,855 |
| | *Contained V2O5* | Tonne | 0 | 64,594 | 64,594 |
| 14. | Zircon | Tonne | 6,69,466 | 16,74,435 | 23,43,901 |

*Figures rounded off*

**contains glauconite, polyhalite, sylvite.*

*@ contains ilmenite, rutile, leucoxene and anastase.*