

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2503
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025

CRITICAL MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

2503 SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified critical minerals essential for country's energy transition and industrial growth under the Viksit Bharat 2047 strategy;
- (b) if so, the details of minerals identified and their estimated domestic reserves; and
- (c) the steps being taken to boost domestic exploration, extraction, and processing of these minerals?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government has identified 24 critical and strategic minerals that are essential for India's energy transition and industrial growth. These minerals have been notified in Part D of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 through an amendment to the Act in 2023. List of these 24 minerals is placed at **Annexure-I**.

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) The Government has taken several steps to strengthen the domestic critical mineral sector such as:
- i. 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.
 - ii. 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.

- iii. To encourage private participation in exploration, the Ministry of Mines has notified 33 private exploration agencies (NPEAs) for taking up exploration projects through funding from National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET).
- iv. Central Government has auctioned 34 blocks (during 2024-25 and 2025-26) for 24 critical and strategic minerals.
- v. The Notice Inviting Tenders (NITs) for the first tranche of auction of 13 mineral blocks for grant of Exploration Licence has been issued on 13th March, 2025. This comprises of some blocks for critical minerals like Rare Earth Elements (REE), Platinum Group of Elements (PGEs), Vanadium etc.
- vi. The Ministry of Mines has launched the First Tranche of Auction for 13 mineral blocks in the offshore areas including 7 blocks of polymetallic nodules and crusts which have several critical minerals.
- vii. The Government has eliminated/reduced customs duties on most of the critical minerals.
- viii. The Ministry of Mines is providing funding for Research and Development (R&D) projects related to critical minerals to various Institutions/Laboratories/Start-ups/MSMEs etc.
- ix. The Ministry of Mines has recognized 7 institutes – 4 IITs and 3 R&D Labs – as Centres of Excellence (CoE) under NCMM.
- x. The Ministry of Mines has also entered into bilateral agreements with the resource rich countries such as Australia, Argentina, Chile, Mozambique etc., which are having rich critical mineral resources and access to the latest technologies in the exploration and development of critical minerals. 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.

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				
	<i>Ore</i>	Tonne	7,503	11,180	18,683
	<i>Metal</i>	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				
	<i>Ore</i>	Tonne	0	2,72,03,398	2,72,03,398
	<i>Contained MoS2</i>	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				
	<i>Ore</i>	Tonne	2,101	8,37,20,794	8,37,22,895
	<i>Metal</i>	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				
	<i>Ore</i>	Tonne	0	8,94,32,464	8,94,32,464
	<i>Metal</i>	Tonne	0	1,44,650	1,44,650
13.	Vanadium				
	<i>Ore</i>	Tonne	0	2,46,33,855	2,46,33,855
	<i>Contained V2O5</i>	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.