

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2824
ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

UPDATE ON CRITICAL MINERAL MISSION

2824. SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of implementation of the Critical Mineral Mission announced in the Union Budget 2024-25;
- (b) the key milestones achieved under the Mission so far, particularly in the areas of exploration, extraction, processing, recycling, and recovery of critical minerals;
- (c) whether a dedicated institutional framework or nodal agency has been established to operationalize the Critical Mineral Mission; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Following its announcement in the Union Budget 2024-25, the Union Cabinet approved the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) on 29 January 2025 for the period 2024-25 to 2030-31. Key milestones achieved under the NCMM includes-

- i. 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.
- ii. The Ministry of Mines has recognized 7 institutes – 4 IITs and 3 Research and Development (R&D) Labs – as Centres of Excellence (CoE) under NCMM.
- iii. 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.
- iv. In order to enhance domestic production of critical and strategic minerals, Central Government has auctioned 34 blocks for critical and strategic minerals during the 2024-2025 and the current year.
- v. The scope of the Science and Technology-Promoting Innovations in Startups and MSMEs (S&T-PRISM) scheme of Ministry of Mines to support Research and Development, has been expanded in May 2025 to incorporate the NCMM

subcomponent on “Setting up pilot projects for Critical Mineral Recovery” with a financial outlay of ₹100 crore.

- vi. During 2025-26 Budget, duty exempted on cobalt powder and waste, the scrap of lithium-ion battery, Lead, Zinc and 12 more critical minerals.
- vii. In November 2024, 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.

(c) & (d) A whole of Government approach has been adopted to implement NCMM and its activities are coordinated by an Empowered Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary with Secretaries of other relevant Ministries as members. The Ministry of Mines is the administrative Ministry and a dedicated team has been established in the Ministry of Mines with a Joint Secretary designated as Mission Head.
