

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 924
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTCOMES OF NMET

924. SHRI SANA SATHISH BABU:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of project proposals received, approved, and their current status under National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) over the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) the funds sanctioned and disbursed for the same during the last five years, State-wise;
- (c) the key outcomes of completed projects and whether Government has plans to monetize them;
- (d) the list of minerals prioritised for exploration under NMET, especially strategic and critical minerals; and
- (e) whether NMET-funded projects involve private/state partnerships or advanced technologies like drones or AI-based mapping, and details of any delays or bottlenecks reported?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The State wise details of project proposals received, approved, their current status, funds sanctioned and disbursed under NMET over last five years (since FY 2020-21 up-to 30.06.2025) are given in **Annexure-1**.

(c) The key outcomes of the completed projects sanctioned since inception up-to 30.06.2025, are as follows:

- NMET has sanctioned 23 projects of baseline geoscience survey (NAGMP, NGPM, NGDR, etc.). Out of which, 9 projects have been completed. The details are as under:

S. No.	Agency	No. of Projects sanctioned	No. of Projects completed	Outcome
1.	GSI (NAGMP, NGPM, NDGR, etc)	21	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As an outcome of NGPM & NAGMP, 402 potential zones have been identified for further exploration. NGDR portal forms a single platform for storing, managing, and disseminating geoscientific data and is accessible to all the stake holders.
2.	MECL	1	1	Based on data CGM Gujarat had issued NOC for 32 nos. of blocks to carry out G4 level Reconnaissance Survey for Gluconite, Lithium and associated minerals, Limestone, Bauxite, HREEs, LREEs, Heavy metals, etc. The detail geological mapping and bedrock sampling, analysis and geological interpretation work in above blocks are under progress by various NPEAs.
3.	CGM, Gujarat	1	1	
	Total	23	9	

- NMET has approved 469 projects of mineral exploration, out of which 265 projects have been completed. As regards monetization of completed projects, out of 265 completed projects, 34 blocks carved out from 28 exploration projects have been auctioned, 81 projects can be considered for auction after evaluation of the Geological Reports, 20 projects have been upgraded, 40 projects can be upgraded for further exploration.
- Further, NMET has approved 52 projects of financial assistance for procurement of machinery/laboratory equipment/ instruments/softwares, etc. to GSI, IBM, State DGMs/DMGs, Central PSUs. So far, 12 projects have been completed which has helped in generation of new geoscientific data, its processing which will further enhance the mineral exploration activities in the country. The ArcGIS and Geosoft software procured using NMET funds will be used for processing, integration, and interpretation of baseline geoscience data.
- NMET has sanctioned 22 projects to fund startups under S&T PRISM Scheme of Ministry of Mines.

(d) The minerals mentioned in Part-D of the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act 2023, which are categorized as Critical & Strategic minerals are being prioritized for exploration under NMET. The list of these minerals is attached as **Annexure-2**.

(e) NMET had notified a scheme to engage Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs) on 10.5.2022. As per the scheme NPEAs can submit proposals through State Governments for funding by NMET.

- Up-to 30.06.2025, NMET has funded 23 projects to Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs) through State Governments.
- NMET has funded GSI to establish AI/ML laboratory, namely Data Processing, Integration and Interpretation Centre (DPIIC) at RSAS, Bengaluru.
- The bottlenecks reported by agencies in executing exploration projects are delay in grant of forest clearance and local agitation/law & order issues.

Annexure-1

State wise details of projects sanctioned by NMET along with sanctioned cost, expenditure and status

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Project Proposals Submitted	No. of Project Proposals sanctioned	Sanctioned Cost (in Rs. crore)	Fund Disbursed/ Expenditure (in Rs. crore)	Status of Projects
1	Andhra Pradesh	25	4	11.00	2.32	Ongoing: 4
2	Arunachal Pradesh	20	3	8.20	2.15	Ongoing: 3
3	Assam	45	15	55.71	23.90	Completed: 5 Ongoing: 10
4	Bihar	7	2	0.22	0.18	Ongoing: 2
5	Chhattisgarh	90	18	32.30	16.90	Completed:11 Ongoing: 7
6	Goa	2	2	1.08	0.85	Completed:1 Ongoing: 1
7	Gujarat	104	47	92.05	50.65	Completed:7 Cancelled-1 Ongoing: 39
8	Jammu & Kashmir	2	2	5.71	4.17	Completed:1 Ongoing: 1
9	Jharkhand	82	26	76.56	43.76	Completed:13 Cancelled-1 Ongoing: 12
10	Karnataka	73	31	56.59	28.63	Completed: 16 Ongoing: 15
11	Kerala	15	2	5.74	0.72	Ongoing: 2
12	Ladakh	3	2	4.19	2.53	Completed:1 Ongoing: 1
13	Madhya Pradesh	158	62	131.82	59.67	Completed:24 Ongoing: 38
14	Maharashtra	105	33	58.26	27.26	Completed:11 Cancelled -1 Ongoing: 21
15	Manipur	16	4	11.01	1.65	Surrender-1 Ongoing: 3
16	Meghalaya	10	2	3.61	1.69	Ongoing:2
17	Mizoram	7	3	5.37	2.92	Ongoing:3
18	Nagaland	15	5	25.24	13.19	Completed:2 Ongoing:3
19	Odisha	92	37	72.56	39.86	Completed:22 Cancelled -2 Ongoing:13
20	Rajasthan	113	23	159.81	106.97	Completed:12 Ongoing:11
21	Sikkim	4	2	6.59	3.44	Completed:1 Ongoing: 1
22	Tamil Nadu	55	14	49.97	18.77	Completed:3 Surrender-1

						Ongoing: 10
23	Telangana	32	9	16.42	7.64	Completed:2 Ongoing: 7
24	Tripura	1	1	0.37	0.15	Ongoing:1
25	Uttar Pradesh	28	7	16.01	6.71	Completed:2 Ongoing: 5
26	Uttarakhand	15	8	21.39	6.43	Completed:2 Ongoing: 6
27	West Bengal	8	5	7.31	2.02	Completed:2 Ongoing: 3
28	Others*	67	52	1607.33	332.14	Completed:13 Ongoing:39
	Total	1194	421	2542.42	807.27	

**Others include baseline & procurement projects of GSI, IBM, MECL, CMPDI and Projects under S&T PRISM scheme of Ministry of Mines.*

**MMDR Amendment Act 2023
PART 'D' of the First Schedule
Critical and Strategic 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.