

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1876**  
ANSWERED ON 09.03.2026

**NATIONAL CRITICAL MINERAL STOCKPILE**

1876. SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government acknowledges that India's overdependence on China for rare earth elements represents a severe strategic vulnerability exacerbated by China's recent export restrictions;
- (b) details of the proposed National Critical Mineral Stockpile (NCMS), including the adequacy of the planned two-month stockpile and the timeline for its operationalisation;
- (c) the specific actions being taken to diversify India's rare earth supply chain beyond China, as well as efforts to develop end-to-end domestic mining, processing and manufacturing infrastructure; and
- (d) measures to ensure private sector participation in NCMS and allied initiatives does not lead to commodification or supply monopolies?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES  
(SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY)

(a) to (d): Presently, Rare earth elements (REE) processing is dominated by one country. Recognizing this, the Government has taken several steps to increase domestic production and diversify sources of supply for critical minerals, including REE.

Union Budget 2026–27 has included support for the mineral-rich States of Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to establish dedicated Rare Earth Corridors to promote mining, processing, research and manufacturing.

Further, Union Cabinet has approved the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) on 29 January, 2025 to secure a long-term sustainable supply of critical minerals (including REE) and strengthen India's critical mineral value chain encompassing all stages from mineral exploration and mining to beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products. As part of the NCMM framework, Mission provides for a joint initiative between central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or with private companies to develop National Critical Mineral Stockpile Programme, for stockpiling critical and strategic minerals, to guard against supply disruptions and aid mineral supply for domestic utilization. The government has allocated ₹ 500 Crore for developing the National Critical Mineral Stockpile.

Specific actions being taken to diversify India's rare earth supply chain and to develop end-to-end domestic mining, processing and manufacturing infrastructure include the following:

- GSI has intensified exploration of critical and strategic minerals including REE in the country in order to enhance domestic critical mineral resources. In 2024-25, GSI carried out 78 mineral exploration projects on REE and during 2025-26, GSI has taken up 92 projects exclusively for REE across the country.
- The Ministry of Mines has successfully auctioned 46 critical mineral blocks, including 7 blocks of rare earth elements (REE). Additionally, the Central Government has also successfully auctioned 7 blocks of Exploration License, which include two blocks of REE.
- The Government has recognized nine premier institutes as Centres of Excellence (CoEs) under the NCMM to carry out Research & Development (R&D) for strengthening domestic capabilities in the critical mineral value chain.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹1,500 crore Incentive Scheme to promote critical mineral recycling (including REE) under NCMM. The Scheme Guidelines were issued and the Scheme was launched on 02.10.2025.
- Guidelines for funding pilot projects for the recovery of critical minerals (including REE) from overburden/ tailings/ fly ash/ red mud, etc were issued on 14.11.2025.
- Government has eliminated customs duties on 25 minerals and reduced Basic Customs Duties (BCD) on two minerals during Budget 2024-25. During Budget 2025-26, Government of India exempted cobalt powder and waste, scrap of lithium-ion batteries, lead, zinc, and 12 other critical minerals from Basic Customs Duty. Further, the Union Budget 2026–27 has mentioned exemption from basic customs duty on import of capital goods required for processing of critical minerals in India.
- Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL), a JV under the aegis of Ministry of Mines, has been created to acquire overseas mineral assets like Lithium, Cobalt, REE etc.

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