

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1878 #
ANSWERED ON 09.03.2026

IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT OF NCMM

1878 # SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the 1,200 exploration projects initiated under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) between 2024–25 and 2030–31, including the number of projects commenced and completed to date;
- (b) the details of the incentive scheme aimed at boosting recycling capacity for critical minerals, including the amount disbursed so far and the recycling capacity achieved;
- (c) whether any measures have been taken to integrate unconventional sources such as overburden, mine tailings, fly ash and red mud into the critical mineral supply chain; and
- (d) if so, the outcomes achieved from these initiatives?

ANSWER

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

(a): Aligning with the objectives of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), GSI has completed execution of 195 mineral exploration projects on various critical and strategic minerals in 2024-25. During 2025-26, GSI undertook 230 projects for various critical and strategic minerals across the country.

Between FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26, National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) has sanctioned a total of 127 critical mineral exploration projects. This includes 62 projects approved in FY 2024-25 and 65 projects approved in FY 2025-26. Of these 127 sanctioned projects, five have been completed.

(b): The Union Cabinet approved the Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Critical Minerals Recycling under the NCMM on 03.09.2025, with a financial outlay of ₹1,500 crore for FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31. The Scheme aims to build domestic capacity of and supply chain resilience in critical minerals by incentivizing that part of recycling value chain in which actual extraction of critical minerals takes place. Eligible feedstock is e-waste, Lithium Ion Battery (LIB) scrap, and scrap other than e-waste & LIB scrap e.g. catalytic convertors in end-of-life

vehicles. The Scheme Guidelines were issued and the Scheme was launched on 02.10.2025 with the last date for receipt of applications as 01/04/2026.

(c) & (d): A fund of ₹100 Crore has been allocated under NCMM for setting up of pilot plants for recovery of critical minerals from overburden/ tailings/ fly ash/ red mud, etc. NMEDT issued guidelines for funding such pilot projects on 14.11.2025. Under this scheme, one project of Non-Ferrous Technology Development Centre (NFTDC) related to REE separation from multiple feedstock has already been approved.

Ministry of Mines has also formulated a policy for Exploration of Critical Minerals in New Projects and Recovery of Critical Minerals from Overburden, Dumps and Tailings of Existing Mines in December 2025, which aims to facilitate systematic identification, assessment and recovery of critical and strategic minerals from new exploration projects as well as existing mines.
