

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4096**  
ANSWERED ON 30.03.2026

**NATIONAL CRITICAL MINERAL MISSION**

4096. SHRI YERRAM VENKATA SUBBA REDDY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that GSI carried out nearly 200 critical mineral exploration projects under National Critical Mineral Mission;
- (b) if so, out of 200 above, the details of projects, carried out in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) details of critical and strategically important mineral blocks auctioned during the last five years and whether there are any blocks from the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): Aligning with the objectives of the National Critical Mineral Mission, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) took up 195 mineral exploration projects for critical minerals in field season 2024-25 and 230 projects in field season 2025-26. Out of these, in Andhra Pradesh, GSI took up 8 mineral exploration projects for critical minerals during field season 2024-25 and 11 projects in field season 2025-26. The details are at Annexure-I.

(c) and (d): From 2021-22 till the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023 (MMDR Amendment Act, 2023), a total of 20 critical mineral blocks (4 Mining Leases and 16 Composite Licences) were auctioned by State Governments. The MMDR Amendment Act, 2023 empowered the Central Government to exclusively auction Mining Leases (ML) and Composite Licences (CL) in respect of critical and strategic minerals specified in Part D of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act. Post MMDR Amendment 2023, the Central Government has auctioned 46 critical mineral blocks which include 7 ML and 39 CL. Out of these, 2 blocks have been auctioned as CL in Andhra Pradesh and the details are as follows:

Name of Block	Commodity	Year
Balepalyam Tungsten and Associated Mineral Block	Tungsten and Associated Mineral	2024-25
Laxmipuram Cobalt and Manganese Block	Cobalt and Manganese	2025-26

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**Details of critical and strategic minerals exploration projects took up by GSI in the Andhra Pradesh during field season 2024-25 and field season 2025-26**

Sl. No.	Field Season	District	Name of Mineral Block / Area	UNFC Stage	Mineral
<b>Field Season 2024-2025</b>					
1	2024-25	Eluru	Aliveru-Doramamidi	G4	Graphite
2	2024-25	Vizianagaram and Alluri Sitaramraju	Korlam-Budatanapalli	G4	Graphite
3	2024-25	Y.S.R Kadapa	Murichintala-Venkatapuram	G4	Lithium
4	2024-25	Nandyal and Ananthapuramu	Kommamarri-Racherla	G4	Phosphorite
5	2024-25	Nellore	Kottapalem-Chamadala	G4	REE
6	2024-25	Kurnool	Gudur-Bididapad	G4	Tin
7	2024-25	Annamayya	Endapally	G4	REE
8	2024-25	Vijayanagaram and Visakhapatnam	Chelluru-Savaravilli	G4	REE
<b>Field Season 2025-2026</b>					
1	2025-26	Alluri Sitharama Raju	Utlā	G2	Graphite
2	2025-26	Anakapalli	Chinna Kokkirapalli	G3	Graphite
3	2025-26	Prakasam	Podili	G3	Niobium
4	2025-26	Prakasam	Kanigiri	G3	Niobium
5	2025-26	Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram	Kasipatnam-Venkayyapalem	G4	REE
6	2025-26	Palnadu and Prakasam	Chintalacheruvu	G4	REE
7	2025-26	Anantapur	Erraguntapalle - Putluru	G4	Phosphorite
8	2025-26	SPSR Nellore	Chintalapalem-Siripuram	G4	REE
9	2025-26	Bapatla and Palnadu	Elchuru-Gurjepalli	G4	REE
10	2025-26	East Godavari	Raghavapatnam-Peddamallaapuram	G4	Graphite
11	2025-26	Sri Satya Sai	Tekulodu-Chilamaturu	G4	Nickel