

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 115
ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

**RARE EARTH MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT
IN WEST BENGAL**

115. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of 10 mineral exploration projects on Rare Earths taken up by GSI in Purulia and Bankura districts of West Bengal during the field season 2025-26, including specific locations, current status and preliminary findings thereof;
- (b) whether GSI has formulated any plans for REE exploration projects in West Bengal for the current field season 2026-27 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) current status of the 0.67 million tonnes REE resource established at Kalapathar-Raghudih Block, Purulia, including whether State Government has furnished the required information for proceeding with auction of the said block and the timeline envisaged for commencement of extraction?

ANSWER

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

- (a): The location-wise details of the 10 mineral exploration projects on Rare Earth Elements and Rare Metals (REE-RM) taken up by Geological Survey of India (GSI) during the field season 2025-26 in Purulia and Bankura districts of West Bengal are given at Annexure-I. The field work in all these blocks has been completed. Based on preliminary findings, three blocks viz. Chirugora, Mednitar and Purdaha in Purulia district, have been upgraded from G3 to G2 stage of exploration.
- (b): During field season 2026-27, GSI has taken up 7 mineral exploration projects on REE-RM and other associated minerals in West Bengal. The details are given at Annexure-II.
- (c): The consent of the State Government for the auction of Kalapathar-Raghudih REE and RM block, Purulia district, West Bengal has been received. The block was put up for auction under Tranche VI for the grant of a Composite Licence. However, no bid was received and the block was annulled.

Annexure-I

Location-wise details of 10 mineral exploration projects on Rare Earths taken up by GSI during Field Season (F.S.) 2025-26 in Purulia and Bankura districts, West Bengal

Sl No.	District	Name of Mineral Block / Area/ Belt	UNFC Stage	Mineral Commodity
1	Purulia	Talsankra-Maharajnagar	G4	Rare Earth Elements (REE), Rare Metals (RM)
2	Purulia	Maysaradih-Jorisha-Bhagaipur	G4	REE, RM
3	Bankura	Indpur- Boga-Danga	G4	REE, RM
4	Purulia	Ladhurka, Kalabani	G4	REE, RM
5	Purulia	Mahuda- Jalduar	G3	REE, RM
6	Purulia	Belma-Malthor	G2	REE
7	Purulia	Ananda Nagar-Chitmu-Amra-Bararola	G4	RM, Lithium
8	Purulia	Chirugora	G3	REE, Niobium
9	Purulia	Mednitar	G3	REE, Niobium
10	Purulia	Purdaha	G3	REE, Phosphate

Annexure-II

Details of 07 mineral exploration projects for REE-RM and other associated minerals taken up by GSI in West Bengal during F.S. 2026-27

Sl No.	District	Name of Mineral Block / Area/ Belt	UNFC Stage	Mineral Commodity
1	Purulia	Baruadih East	G3	REE, RM
2	Purulia	Beldih	G3	REE, Niobium
3	Purulia	Panrkidih -Bhelaidih	G3	REE, Niobium
4	Purulia	Chirugora	G2	REE, Niobium
5	Purulia	Purdaha	G2	REE, Phosphate
6	Purulia	Mednitar	G2	REE, Niobium
7	Purulia, Bokaro, Ramgarh and Ranchi	Tulin-Muri-Kalimati	G4	REE, RM