

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 118
ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

**NOTIFICATION OF DEEP-SEATED MINERAL BLOCKS AND MINERAL
EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK**

118. SHRI RAVI CHANDRA VADDIRAJU:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest legislative revisions, the number of exploration licences for deep-seated and critical minerals (such as Lithium, Cobalt, and Titanium) have been auctioned during the last quarter; and
- (b) the progress made towards setting up the National Mineral Exchange to create a transparent, uniform marketplace for non-fuel and non-coal critical minerals?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 has been amended by the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023 with effect from 17.08.2023 which, *inter alia*, inserted the provisions for grant of Exploration Licence (EL). In the last quarter (April–June 2026), the Ministry of Mines has auctioned 4 Exploration Licence blocks for deep-seated and critical minerals.

(b): Ministry of Mines has notified Mineral Exchange Rules, 2026 on 30.06.2026 in exercise of powers conferred under section 18B of MMDR Act for non-fuel and non-coal major minerals including critical minerals.
