

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-481
ANSWERED ON 23/07/2026

PRODUCTION OF RARE EARTH ELEMENTS AND MAGNETS

481. SHRI RAJESH PARMANAND SHUKLA
SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL
SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA
SHRI RAMRAO SAKHARAM WADKUTE

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

- (a) the measures undertaken to strengthen the domestic production and processing of rare earth elements and magnets;
- (b) the progress made in developing rare earth value chains through India Rare Earths Limited (IREL) and other agencies;
- (c) the details of steps taken to ensure supply chain resilience for strategic sectors such as electric vehicles, renewable energy and defence;
- (d) whether Government has identified new projects or partnerships to reduce import dependence on rare earth materials; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) to (e) i) The 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 Rare Earth Elements) and strengthen India's critical mineral value chains encompassing all stages from mineral exploration and mining to beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products.
- ii) The Ministry of Mines has successfully auctioned 56 critical mineral blocks, including 9 blocks of REEs. Additionally, the Central Government has also successfully auctioned 11 blocks of Exploration Licence, which include three blocks of REEs.

- iii) The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 has been amended in 2025, whereby the scope of NMEDT has been expanded to support critical mineral exploration and mining overseas.
- iv) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide O.M. dated 08.09.2025 exempted public consultation in respect of all mining projects of atomic minerals notified in part B and critical and strategic minerals notified in part D of the first Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957 in terms of sub clause (f) of clause 7(III) (i) of EIA notification 2006.
- v) M/s IREL (India) Limited, a PSU under DAE has been mandated to produce rare earth elements in the form of high pure rare earth oxides from RE bearing mineral Monazite in India. Monazite is the known source of rare earths mineral found in India. IREL has been operating in three locations having the facility for integrated mining and processing of mineral sands and a facility each for extraction and refining of Rare Earths. IREL has been granted Letter of Intent for three deposits (two in the state of Odisha & one in Tamil Nadu) and nominated as prospective lessee for one deposit in A.P to augment the processing capacity of these minerals.
- vi) IREL has established a Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) plant at Vizag in Andhra Pradesh for production of 3 TPA of Samarium Cobalt magnets for use by DAE, Defence and Space sectors. The magnets are being produced as per the requirements of these sectors.
- vii) Mini plants for production of lanthanum, cerium and neodymium metals have been established in the Rare Earth & Titanium Theme Park in Bhopal. In the Theme Park, a facility has also been created to recover rare earths from end-of-life magnets.
- viii) The Union Budget 2026-27 made an announcement to support mineral-rich coastal states of Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu to establish dedicated Rare Earth corridors to promote mining, processing, research and manufacturing.
- ix) Guidelines for funding Pilot Projects for Recovery of Critical Minerals from overburden/tailings/fly ash/ Red mud etc. issued by Ministry of Mines on 14.11.2025.
- x) The Government has recognized nine premier institutes as Centres of Excellence under the NCMM to carry out Research & Development for strengthening domestic capabilities in the critical mineral value chain.

- xi) During the Union Budget 2024–25, customs duties were eliminated on 25 critical minerals. Further, in Budget 2026–27, Basic Customs Duty was exempted on the import of capital goods required for the processing of critical minerals in India.
- xii) The Union Cabinet approved the ₹1,500 crore Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling to develop domestic recycling capacity for the recovery and production of critical minerals from secondary sources. The Scheme was launched on 02.10.2025.
- xiii) Govt. of India has recently launched a comprehensive mines-to-magnets strategic roadmap aimed to position it as a key player in the global Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) market by launching a scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnet with a financial outlay of ₹7,280 crore for production of 6,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of integrated REPM manufacturing capacity in India.
