GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 908
ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026

AUCTION OF MINERAL BLOCKS

908. SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of mineral blocks auctioned since the inception of the auction regime in 2015, State-wise, and the number of blocks operationalised so far;
(b) the revenue benefit accrued, and expected to accrue, to the Central and State Governments from the auction of mineral blocks;
(c) the manner in which the enhanced availability of minerals, including critical minerals, is advancing India's self-reliance and its vision of Viksit Bharat 2047; and
(d) the manner in which coordination with State Governments has been undertaken to accelerate the auction and operationalisation of blocks?

ANSWER

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

(a): Since the introduction of the auction regime in 2015, 720 mineral blocks have been successfully auctioned, of which 105 mineral blocks have been operationalised. During FY 2025–26, a record 212 mineral blocks were auctioned and 36 mineral blocks were operationalised. State-wise details are provided at Annexure-I.

(b): As per the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder, revenue from auctioned mineral blocks accrue to the State Governments in the form of auction premium, royalty, upfront payment etc. The mining revenue collection to the States has increased by around 5 times since the introduction of auction regime in 2015 till 2025-26, compared to the previous 11 years (FY 2004-05 to FY 2014-15).

(c): Enhanced availability of minerals, including critical minerals, ensures a reliable supply of raw materials for various sectors including clean energy, electric mobility, electronics, defence, advanced manufacturing and infrastructure. It promotes domestic value addition, reduces import dependence, promotes downstream industries and generates employment.

Further, the Government has launched National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) to secure a sustainable supply of critical minerals and strengthen the entire value chain from exploration and mining to beneficiation; processing and recovery from end-of-life products. Some of the important initiatives taken by the Ministry are as follows:

(i) Ministry of Mines has successfully auctioned 56 critical mineral blocks. Additionally, the Central Government has also successfully auctioned 11 blocks of Exploration License, which include six critical minerals blocks.

(ii) The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act), 1957 has been amended in 2025 whereby the scope of NMEDT has been expanded to support critical mineral exploration and mining overseas. Forty-five Private Exploration Agencies have been notified for taking up exploration projects with 100% funding support from NMEDT.

(iii) Government has launched a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme on 02.10.2025 to develop recycling capacity for the extraction of critical minerals from secondary sources like e-waste, spent lithium-ion batteries and other scrap. The scheme has received very positive response from the private sector. 58 entities have been declared eligible with around 850 Kilo Tonnes Per Annum (KTPA) pledged capacity against 270 KTPA target.

(iv) Guidelines for funding Pilot Projects for Recovery of Critical Minerals from overburden/tailings/fly ash/ Red mud etc. have been issued on 14.11.2025.

(v) MMDR Act, 1957, was amended in 2023 to introduce the Exploration Licenses (EL) regime for deep-seated and critical minerals. The EL holder is entitled to a share in the auction premium payable by the mining lease holder, as per the auction condition.

(vi) To encourage, and incentivize private-sector participation in mineral exploration, scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses has been introduced for holders of Composite Licences (CL) (reimbursement of up to 50%, subject to a ceiling of ₹8 crore) and holders of Exploration Licence (EL) (up to 50% of expenses, with a maximum limit of ₹20 crore).

(d): Ministry of Mines, in collaboration with State Governments, has undertaken several measures to accelerate the auction and operationalization of mineral blocks. Some of the key measures undertaken are as follows:

(i) A dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established at Ministry of Mines for continuous monitoring of auction and operationalisation of blocks.

(ii) Regular monthly review meetings with State Governments are held under the chairmanship of the Secretary (Mines) since September, 2025 to monitor the progress in auction and operationalisation of mineral blocks and resolve bottlenecks.

(iii) State-specific review meetings with concerned officials from mining, forest, environment, revenue departments and concerned bidders are convened under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Mines and Secretary (Mines).

(iv) Ministry of Mines has developed Unified Mining Portal (UMP), in consultation with State Governments, to enable seamless digital integration of the entire mineral block lifecycle, from auction to operationalisation, thereby fast-tracking statutory approvals, monitoring and operationalisation of mineral blocks. The Ministry of Mines and States have started using UMP for issuance of Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for auction of critical & major mineral blocks, and further monitoring of already auctioned blocks.

(v) Pre-Auction Committees have been constituted by major mineral States to resolve land scheduling issues before the auction process, facilitating more participation of bidders and faster operationalisation.

(vi) State-level Coordination Committees under Chief Secretary have been constituted by the major mineral states to address the bottlenecks and fast-track the operationalization of auctioned mines.

(vii) The Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 have been amended to introduce intermediary timelines, automatic declaration of preferred bidder and automatic issuance of Letter of Intent (LoI), accountability for delays by bidders and State Governments, and incentives for early operationalisation.

(viii) The State Governments have been incentivized to accelerate the auction of major minerals blocks and expedite operationalization of mines through financial incentives under Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) in FY 2025-26.

(ix) Legislative and policy reforms have been undertaken, including provision for inclusion of new minerals in existing mining leases, one-time area extension for ML/CL, and removal of restrictions on sale of minerals from captive mines to increase ease of doing business.

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Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of RS US PQ no. 908 for answer on 27.07.2026 regarding 'Auction of mineral blocks'

S. No	States	No. of Mineral blocks Auctioned	No. of Blocks Operationalised
1	Rajasthan	140	8
2	Madhya Pradesh	127	10
3	Odisha	74	35
4	Karnataka	65	18
5	Chhattisgarh	64	5
6	Gujarat	58	14
7	Andhra Pradesh	47	5
8	Maharashtra	45	3
9	Tamil Nadu	24	-
10	Goa	18	6
11	Assam	14	1
12	Uttar Pradesh	13	-
13	Jharkhand	11	-
14	Telangana	8	-
15	Arunachal Pradesh	6	-
16	Bihar	4	-
17	Uttarakhand	2	-
Total		**720**	**105**