

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1003
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2023

STRATEGIC RESERVES

1003. SHRI VINOD L. CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that China has developed strategic reserves of Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel, Antimony, Indium, Germanium and Molybdenum acid and other elements used in energy, electronics and defence ordinance supply chain, if so, the facts thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is taking measures to develop strategic reserve of the said elements to secure its supply chain; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): The Chinese Government does not release data regarding quantum of mineral reserves kept in Chinese strategic or commodity reserves. However, as per the publicly available data (report of U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries, January 2022), China accounts for 6.69% of the world's reserves of lithium.

(b) and (c): The Government has taken steps to develop strategic reserves of these elements and other elements. A joint venture Company named 'Khanij Bidesh India Limited' (KABIL) has been formed under the aegis of Ministry of Mines, to acquire assets of the twelve identified critical and strategic overseas minerals including Lithium abroad. Further Geological Survey of India (GSI) has also given emphasis on exploration of strategic and critical minerals across the country.

Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India, has a mandate to identify and evaluate mineral resources of uranium, thorium, niobium, tantalum, beryllium, lithium, zirconium, titanium and rare earths containing uranium and thorium.
