

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2162
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

LIFTING BAN ON MINING

2162. SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has recently lifted ban on mining of lithium and several other minerals; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the rationale of banning earlier and now lifting the ban?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) & (b): There is no ban on mining of lithium in the Country, hence no question of lifting the ban arises.

Lithium bearing minerals are listed as atomic minerals in Part-B of First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MMDR Act, 1957]. For atomic minerals where the grade of atomic mineral contained in the ore is equal to or more than the threshold value, the mining is undertaken by Government companies as per the provisions of Atomic Minerals Concession Rules, 2016. In case of atomic minerals, where the grade of atomic mineral contained in the ore is less than the threshold value, the State Governments can conduct auction for grant of mining lease wherein both private and government companies can participate.

Ministry of Mines has proposed to omit certain minerals including Lithium bearing minerals from the list of atomic minerals specified in Part-B of the First Schedule to the MMDR Act, 1957 through an amendment to the MMDR Act 1957. Upon removal of these minerals from the said list, exploration and mining of these minerals will be opened up for the private sector as well. As a result, exploration and mining of these minerals are expected to increase significantly in the country.
