

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2198
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

CRITICAL MINERALS

2198. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up an expert committee to identify the critical minerals, which are essential for economic development and acquiring self - reliance in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the said expert committee has submitted their recommendations to the Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which it is likely to be done;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to incentivize the private sector participation in all spheres of minerals exploration with a focus on precious and critical ones; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it is likely to help in fulfilling the demand of critical minerals in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Mines has constituted a seven-member committee under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines vide order No. 11/1/2022-IC dated 01.11.2022 to identify the list of minerals critical to our country.

(c): The committee has submitted its report of recommended a total 30 minerals as critical for India. Based on the inputs, Government has released the list of 30 critical minerals for India. These minerals are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

(d) & (e): The Central Government has taken several steps to incentivize private sector participation in mineral exploration. Accredited private exploration agencies which have been notified under the second proviso to Section 4(1) of the MMDR Act

have been allowed to carryout exploration without prospecting licence. These agencies have also been made eligible for obtaining funding under National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET). So far, a total of 14 private agencies have been notified by Central Government under Section 4(1) of MMDR Act. These agencies are in the process of taking up 11 numbers of exploration projects from the NMET fund. Besides, any person can submit a proposal to the State Government for notification of an area for auction of composite licence. Also, incentives such as Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses from NMET for holders of Composite Licenses (CL) for certain deep-seated and critical mineral commodities have been introduced for encouraging private participation in mineral exploration.
