

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 938
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023

LITHIUM RESERVES

938. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has confirmed the presence of lithium reserves in Jammu and Kashmir, based on the Geological Survey of India's G3 level surveys and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the discovered deposits are located in areas with human habitation and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India possesses lithium extraction technologies and if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Government has a concrete strategy to acquire it and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has planned the auction of lithium reserves found in Jammu & Kashmir by December 2023 and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details and the progress made in exploration and extraction of the 1600 tonnes of lithium discovered in Karnataka's Mandya district last year?

ANSWER

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

(a): Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India has carried out a 'preliminary exploration' i.e. G3 stage mineral exploration project on Bauxite, Rare Earth Elements and Lithium in Salal-Haimna areas of Reasi District, Jammu & Kashmir during FS 2020-21 & 2021-22 and has confirmed an inferred resource (G3) of 5.9 million tonnes of lithium ore.

(b): There are scattered houses in the mineralised block of Salal-Haimna, Reasi District, Jammu & Kashmir.

(c): The processing and refining methods for lithium ore can vary depending on the type of lithium deposit, the characteristics of the ore, and the intended end-use of the lithium compounds. India is capable of developing technologies for beneficiation of lithium ore to lithium mineral concentrate. Successful experimentation has been done for extraction of lithium from mineral concentrate in laboratory scale.

(d): The decision regarding auctioning of the Lithium mineral block in Jammu & Kashmir will be taken up by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

(e): The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research under Department of Atomic Energy has established 1600 tonnes (inferred category) lithium resource in Marlagalla area, Mandya District, Karnataka. This is a preliminary estimate and since then, exploration inputs by AMDER are focused to convert the preliminary estimate to exploitable category and higher degree of confidence and to augment lithium resource in the adjoining extension areas. Bench scale studies have been completed on hydro-metallurgical extraction of Lithium from Spodumene mineral concentrate from the area to produce very pure Lithium Carbonate.
