

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1648
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2023

NMET AUTONOMY

1648. SHRI. JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of National Mineral Exploration Trust's (NMET) autonomy within the Ministry of Mines;
- (b) whether the Ministry is planning to take further steps to ensure and enhance the autonomous functioning of NMET as intended by its establishment; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) functions as per the provisions of National Mineral Exploration Trust Rules, 2015. There is a Governing Body headed by Hon'ble Minister of Mines which lays down broad policy framework and Executive Committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Mines which monitors and reviews the functioning of NMET.

NMET holds regular meeting of Technical cum Cost Committee and Executive Committee to sanction exploration projects of different notified exploration agencies (both public and private). The first installment of funds is released to Exploration Agencies as advance. Till date NMET has sanctioned 326 projects at the cost of ₹2184.55 crore. NMET has funded 31 projects of strengthening infrastructure to State Government and Central agencies at the cost of ₹ 183.80 crore. NMET has funded 81 critical mineral exploration projects to various exploration agencies at the cost of ₹ 245.42 crore. NMET has funded 15 projects to private exploration agencies for Rs. 12.45 crore.

(b) & (c): To enhance the autonomous functioning of NMET, creation of 12 posts has been approved by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, including 01 post of Director General of NMET, 06 posts for technical division, 03 posts for Finance division and 02 posts for Admin & Legal division.
