

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †554
ANSWERED ON 20.11.2019

SHORTAGE OF LITHIUM AND COBALT MINES

†554. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of lithium and cobalt in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the shortage of lithium and cobalt has an adverse impact on the production of electric vehicles;
- (c) If so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has made any survey to ascertain lithium and cobalt mines in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. India is deficient in Lithium and Cobalt resources. However, to meet the country's requirement of Lithium and Cobalt, a joint venture viz. Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) has been formed between the Central Government PSUs (National Aluminium Company Limited, Hindustan Copper Limited and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited) to source Lithium, Cobalt and other strategic minerals overseas.

(e) & (f): Geological Survey of India (GSI) is engaged in mineral exploration activity to search for different mineral commodities including Lithium and Cobalt prospects in different parts of the country. GSI takes up exploration projects for multi-metal elements including Lithium and Cobalt.

Presently, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research, Department of Atomic Energy is carrying out exploration for lithium in potential geological domains in parts of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bihar and Jharkhand. Lithium (Spodumene) mineralisation has been identified in pegmatite in Marlagalla along the Nagmangla Shist Belt, Karnataka. Surveys are also being carried out in brines of Sambhar & Pachpadra playas, Rajasthan and Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat for lithium mineralisation.
