

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-501
ANSWERED ON 16.09.2020

SHORTAGE OF LITHIUM AND COBALT

501. MS.PRATIMA BHOUMIK:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI SHIVAKUMAR C UDASI:

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 it is a fact that the shortage of Lithium and Cobalt is affecting the production of electric vehicles;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction;
- (d) whether any survey has been conducted to find out Lithium and Cobalt mines in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is considering to acquire overseas Lithium and Cobalt mines and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As per the National Mineral Inventory as on 01.04.2015, estimated resources of Cobalt ore is 44.91 million tonnes. There is no reported production of Lithium and Cobalt ore/mineral in the country. There is scarcity of these minerals.
- (b) & (c) As informed by Ministry of Heavy Industry no such record is available.
- (d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) is engaged in mineral exploration project for multi-metal elements including Lithium and Cobalt as a part of annual field season programme in various States of the country. The details on previous field seasons for the period 2018-19, 2019-20 and current field season of 2020-21 are given below:

Sl.	State	FS year	District	Name of Mineral Block/Area/Belt	Mineral Commodity
1	Chhattisgarh	2018-19	Korba	Katghora-Garhatara area	Lithium
2	J&K (erstwhile state)		Leh	Hanle, Rhongo area	Cobalt
3	Himachal Pradesh		Kullu	Naraul-Danala area	Cobalt
4	Karnataka		Shimoga	Tarlaghatta area	Cobalt
5	Himachal Pradesh	2019-20	Kinnaur	Nako granite	Lithium
6	Bihar		Nawada	Pichhli Meghatari Area	Lithium
7	Rajasthan		Sirohi	Sibagaon area	Lithium
8	Meghalaya		East Khasi Hills	Umlyngpung Block	Lithium
9	Karnataka		Haveri	Masur-Kanvi Siddageri area	Cobalt
10	Karnataka		Haveri and Davanagere	ChikkaGonageri area	Cobalt
11	Karnataka		Uttar Kannada	Devanmane and Gumlagadde areas	Cobalt
12	Karnataka		Shimoga	Hittala-Gilalagundi area	Cobalt
13	Arunachal Pradesh		Papum Pare	Niyamlo area	Cobalt
14	Gujarat		Aravalli	Hathipura and Phojdar Kampain	Cobalt
15	Bihar	2020-21	Jamui	Harni-Kalwadih-Charkapthal area	Lithium
16	Bihar		Jamui	Parmania-Tetariya area	Lithium
17	Jharkhand		Koderma	Dhorakola- Kusahna area	Lithium

(e) A Joint Venture company namely Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) has been incorporated in August, 2019 by three CPSEs namely National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Limited (MECL) to acquire strategic mineral assets overseas including for Lithium and Cobalt.
