

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1487
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024

PROTECTION OF ESSENTIAL MINERALS

†1487. SHRI SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

the details of the reforms started to protect the essential minerals for the advanced technology sectors in the country, state-wise including Odisha?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

The Government of India has taken several initiatives to secure the supply of Critical and strategic minerals that are crucial for advanced technology sectors. These initiatives are aimed to ensure availability and a reliable supply chain of these mineral resources across the country including Odisha.

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 has been amended in 2023 to empower Central Government to auction blocks for 24 critical and strategic minerals. Ministry of Mines has successfully auctioned 14 blocks of critical minerals of which 03 blocks are in Odisha and Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for 21 blocks of critical minerals are currently under process. In order to promote exploration of critical and deep seated minerals, a new mineral concession namely, Exploration Licence has been introduced for 29 critical and deep-seated minerals, which will permit the licensee to undertake reconnaissance and prospecting operations for these minerals. Further, to encourage private participation in exploration, Ministry of Mines has notified 22 private exploration agencies (NPEAs).
