

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1558
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024

IMPORT OF MINERALS

1558. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:
DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:
SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MEENA:

Will the Minister of MINES

be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding quantum and value of minerals imported since 2019, State-wise;
- (b) the measures taken by the Government to prevent environmental degradation arising from activities such as pitting, trenching, drilling, and subsurface excavation permitted under The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023;
- (c) the manner in which the Government proposes to coordinate with State Governments on resource management for the auction of specified critical and strategic minerals; and
- (d) whether this Act is expected to reduce economic dependency on mineral imports without disrupting the supply chain and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Year-wise quantity and value of import of top ten major minerals (which account for over 97% of import value of major minerals) from FY 2018-19 to FY 2023-24 are given at Annexure. State-wise trade data is not maintained. Export/ Import data is available product/ country/ period wise.
- (b) Exploration activities for various mineral commodities, which includes pitting, trenching and drilling, are carried out after giving due care to environmental concerns. In the forest areas especially, exploration activities are carried out as per the provisions laid down in the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and subsequent amendments after taking due permission from the forest authorities.
- (c) & (d): In order to boost the domestic supply of critical minerals, the Central Government has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation)

(MMDR) Act, 1957 through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023 with effect from 17.08.2023. Through the said amendment, the Central Government has been empowered to exclusively auction mining lease and composite license for 24 critical and strategic minerals listed in the new Part-D of the First Schedule to the said Act.

Even though auction for critical and strategic minerals is done by the Central Government, the mining leases are granted by the State Governments only and the revenue from mining operations also accrue to the State Governments. Thus, there is clear demarcation of responsibilities and powers of the Central Government and State Government with respect to resource management of critical and strategic minerals.

The objective of the said amendment is to increase exploration and mining of critical minerals and to ensure self-sufficiency in supply of critical minerals which are essential for the advancement of many sectors, including high-tech electronics, telecommunications, transport and defense. They are also vital for the transition to a low-emission economy, and the renewable technologies required to meet the 'Net Zero' commitment of India by 2070.

The auction of critical and strategic minerals brings several key benefits, including bolstering domestic production, reducing import dependency, promoting sustainable resource management, attracting investments in the mining sector and the development of key industries crucial for India's industrial and technological advancement. This is a step for creating a reliable supply chain of these minerals towards making of an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', and contributing to increased economic growth.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of LS USQ No. 1558 answered on 31.07.2024 regarding 'IMPORT OF MINERALS'

Table: Import of Major Minerals

(Quantity in lakh ton)
(Value in Rs. Crore)

Mineral	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Copper Ores & Conc.	8.23	12,146	8.22	8,668	4.15	5,907	10.19	22,381	11.78	27,374	10.16	25,951
Phosphorite	75.04	5,625	76.38	5,402	77.25	5,316	96.25	10,433	90.89	15,125	88.02	12,649
Manganese Ore	27.56	4,848	28.42	4,128	39.52	5,524	65	9,642	46.41	8,262	55.98	7,760
Limestone	243.97	3,667	256.39	3,743	227.97	3,291	275.82	4,901	297.36	6,259	338.09	6,616
Iron Ore	168.31	5,914	75.15	941	72.42	845	66.81	3,539	17.91	1,595	49.59	4,397
Bauxite	20.75	1,222	22.46	1,081	30.33	1,370	30.08	1,895	35.95	2,340	45.02	2,822
Asbestos	3.64	1,225	3.61	1,243	3.08	1,185	4.37	1,663	4.04	2,294	4.65	2,326
Sulphur	13.46	1,522	12.35	824	14.63	1,095	18.95	3,536	13.37	2,677	17.08	1,737
Magnesite	3.48	1,073	3.01	928	3.06	750	3.74	1,279	4.75	1,529	4.72	1,480
Fluorspar	2.58	713	2.32	707	2.13	593	2.81	767	3.04	1,134	2.52	1,030
Others	3.32	649	2.70	492	3.03	549	3.98	1,079	2.75	1,536	3.59	1,865
Total	570.34	38,604	491.01	28,157	477.57	26,425	578.00	61,115	528.25	70,125	619.42	68,633