

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 1506
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024

AUCTION OF CRITICAL MINERALS

† 1506 SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether auctions are being conducted for the extraction of important minerals like limestone, gold, iron ore, manganese; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes, auctions are being conducted since amendment in MMDR Act in 2015 for major minerals including limestone, gold, iron ore, manganese etc. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 was amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 with effect from 12.01.2015 whereby auction regime was introduced for grant of mineral concessions to bring in greater transparency and remove discretion. The method of auction also ensures that the State Governments get their fair share of revenue accruing from the auction process. Further, the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023 has empowered the Central Government to exclusively auction mining leases for minerals specified as "critical and strategic" in Part D of the First Schedule of the Act.

From 2015 to 31st March, 2021, 108 mineral blocks were auctioned. However, since 01.04.2021, the number of auctioned mineral blocks has increased more than threefold and 333 mineral blocks have been auctioned till date. Since 2015, 441 mineral blocks have been auctioned across 15 States. The Central Government has auctioned 24 critical and strategic mineral blocks since amendment in the Act in August 2023 till date. These auctions have been conducted across various states, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh. The auction of mineral blocks has led to significant increase in the revenue accrual to the States.

The details of mineral blocks auctioned so far is given below:

S. No.	Mineral	No. of Blocks Auctioned
1	Limestone	151
2	Iron Ore	113
3	Manganese	39
4	Gold	21
5	Iron Ore & Manganese	9
6	Iron Ore & Gold	1
7	Copper & Gold	1
8	Others	106
	Total	441
