

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.364**  
ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024

**CRITICAL MINERALS**

364 SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

a) whether the Government has conducted any recent study/survey on the availability of critical minerals in the country during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details regarding the identified critical minerals and their estimated quantities across the country, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the details regarding the presently running mines and the projects proposed by the Government during the last five years, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh, Nellore district;

(d) whether the Government is planning to classify any minor minerals as major minerals. and if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details regarding the total funds allocated and utilised for the exploration, extraction and processing of critical minerals in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years; and

(f) the details of steps undertaken by the Government to reduce dependency on foreign imports of critical minerals and their success in improving domestic supply of critical minerals?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): Yes. Geological Survey of India carries out reconnaissance surveys (G4), preliminary exploration (G3) and general exploration (G2) for various mineral commodities including critical minerals in different parts of the country as per annual field season programme, following MEMC Rules, 2015 and subsequent amendments. Since field season of 2020-21 to 2023-24, GSI has taken up 433 mineral exploration projects to assess the mineral potential of various critical minerals e.g. Rare Earth Elements (REE), Rare Metals (Rare Metals), Tin, Tungsten, Chromium, Platinum Group Of Elements (PGE), Titanium, Vanadium, Tungsten, Lithium, Molybdenum, Nickel, Scandium, Barite, Glauconite, Graphite, Potash, Phosphate etc. across the country. During the current field season 2024-25, GSI has taken up 195 mineral exploration projects across the country to assess the mineral potential of critical minerals. The state-wise details of resources augmented for

various critical minerals by GSI since MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 is given in Annexure-I.

(c): There is no mine of critical minerals running in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The State-wise details of mines of critical minerals are given below:

| <b>Mineral / State</b> | <b>Working</b> | <b>Non-Working</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>Beryl</b>           | -              | 2                  | 2            |
| Rajasthan              | -              | 2                  | 2            |
| <b>Graphite</b>        | 10             | 17                 | 27           |
| Chhattisgarh           | 1              | -                  | 1            |
| Jharkhand              | 2              | 9                  | 11           |
| Karnataka              | -              | 2                  | 2            |
| Kerala                 | -              | 1                  | 1            |
| Odisha                 | 6              | -                  | 6            |
| Tamil Nadu             | 1              | 5                  | 6            |
| <b>Tin</b>             | 6              | 11                 | 17           |
| Chhattisgarh           | 6              | 8                  | 14           |
| Odisha                 | -              | 3                  | 3            |

Further, the details of the projects on strategic and critical minerals taken up by GSI during the last five years in Andhra Pradesh, including Nellore are given at Annexure-II.

(d): At present no such proposal has been finalised.

(e): The details regarding the total funds allocated and utilised during the last five years by GSI for mineral exploration including critical minerals in the country during the last five years and particularly in Andhra Pradesh are as stated below:

(Rs. in crore)

| <b>Financial Year</b>                             | <b>2020-21</b> | <b>2021-22</b> | <b>2022-23</b> | <b>2023-24</b> | <b>2024-25<br/>(upto<br/>15.11.24)</b> |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Total Fund Allocation                             | 32.05          | 54.60          | 63.00          | 66.15          | 65.75                                  |
| Total Fund Utilization                            | 31.92          | 54.47          | 62.93          | 66.06          | 48.54                                  |
| Fund Allocation particularly for Andhra Pradesh.  | 0.57           | 1.25           | 1.17           | 1.56           | 1.07                                   |
| Fund Utilization particularly for Andhra Pradesh. | 0.57           | 1.25           | 1.16           | 1.56           | 0.96                                   |

(f): As part of the Union Budget 2024-25 announcement, import duties on 25 critical minerals have been eliminated which will improve supply chain for the user industry. Further, setting up of a Critical Mineral Mission for domestic production, recycling of

critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets has also been announced.

Furthermore, to secure domestic supply of critical minerals essential for advanced technologies, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 has been amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023 which has introduced major reforms in mining viz. inserting 24 critical & strategic minerals in Part D of the First Schedule to the MMDR Act, 1957 and empowering Central Government to exclusively auction mineral concessions for these critical minerals.

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State-wise details of cumulative resource augmented by GSI (state-wise) at various cut-off and grades since MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 for various critical and strategic mineral commodities

| State             | Mineral Commodity (in million tonne) |         |     |          |                       |             |          |         |          |            |          |         |        |                      |     |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|-----|----------|-----------------------|-------------|----------|---------|----------|------------|----------|---------|--------|----------------------|-----|
|                   | REE-RM                               | Niobium | PGE | Graphite | Glauconite/<br>Potash | Phosphorite | Titanium | Gallium | Vanadium | Molybdenum | Tungsten | Lithium | Nickel | Cobalt<br>(in tonne) | Tin |
| Assam             | 30.51                                |         |     |          |                       |             |          |         |          |            |          |         |        |                      |     |
| Andhra Pradesh    |                                      |         |     | 0.43     |                       |             |          |         |          |            |          |         |        |                      |     |
| Arunachal Pradesh |                                      |         |     | 13.6     |                       |             |          |         | 0.38     |            |          |         |        |                      |     |
| Bihar             | 5.84                                 |         |     |          | 300                   |             |          |         |          |            |          |         |        |                      |     |
| Chhattisgarh      |                                      |         |     |          | 4.14                  | 20          |          | 30.5    | 11.6     |            |          |         |        |                      |     |
| Gujarat           | 192.67                               | 282     |     |          |                       |             |          |         |          |            |          |         |        |                      |     |
| Haryana           |                                      |         |     |          |                       |             |          |         |          | 1.35       |          |         |        |                      | 3   |
| Jharkhand         | 0.009                                |         |     |          | 138.27                |             | 28.7     | 12.9    | 17.73    |            |          |         |        |                      |     |
| Jammu & Kashmir   |                                      |         |     |          |                       |             |          |         |          |            | 5.9      |         |        |                      |     |
| Karnataka         | 0.75                                 |         |     |          |                       |             |          |         |          |            |          |         | 2.4    | 275                  |     |
| Kerala            |                                      |         | 0.3 |          |                       |             |          |         |          |            |          |         | 0.2    |                      |     |
| Maharashtra       | 0.046                                |         |     |          |                       |             |          |         |          |            |          |         |        |                      |     |
| Madhya Pradesh    |                                      |         |     | 15       | 23.91                 |             |          | 28.7    | 38.67    |            |          |         |        |                      |     |
| Odisha            |                                      |         |     | 0.99     |                       |             |          |         |          |            |          |         | 2.1    |                      |     |
| Rajasthan         |                                      |         |     |          | 354.02                |             |          |         |          |            | 20.12    | 6.4     |        |                      |     |
| Uttar Pradesh     | 0.342                                |         |     |          | 9.66                  |             | 12.6     | 2.5     | 2.72     |            |          |         |        |                      |     |
| Tamil Nadu        |                                      |         | 0.7 | 2.02     |                       |             |          |         |          | 1.7        | 0.07     |         |        |                      |     |
| West Bengal       | 0.67                                 |         |     |          |                       |             |          |         |          |            |          |         |        |                      |     |
| Total             | 230                                  | 282     | 1   | 32       | 830                   | 20          | 41       | 74      | 71       | 1.7        | 21.5     | 12.3    | 4.7    | 275 tonne            | 3   |

## Annexure-II

## List of projects on strategic and critical minerals taken up by GSI in Andhra Pradesh for last five years

| Sl. No               | District                                | Name of Mineral Block / Area/ Belt    | UNFC Stage | Mineral Commodity      |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Field Season 2020-21 |   |                                       |            |                        |
| 1                    | Anantapur                               | Balepalyam- Ramagiri                  | G4         | Tungsten               |
| 2                    | Kadapa                                  | Mangampeta                            | G4         | baryte                 |
| 3                    | Chittoor                                | Bisanattam-Gudipalli-Sanganapalli     | G4         | Molybdenum             |
| Field Season 2021-22 |   |                                       |            |                        |
| 4                    | East Godavari                           | Burugubanda                           | G2         | Graphite               |
| 5                    | Anantapur                               | Charupalle-Kalagamudram-Batreppalle   | G4         | Molybdenum, gold       |
| 6                    | Kadapa                                  | Pullampet-Vattaluru                   | G4         | Phosphorite            |
| 7                    | Anantapur and Kadapa                    | Parnapalle-Lopatanutula               | G4         | Lithium                |
| 8                    | Anantapur                               | CR Palle-Indukurupalle                | G4         | Molybdenum, gold       |
| 9                    | Nellore                                 | Chinna Varimadugu-Kanduravaripalle    | G4         | Molybdenum, REE, RM    |
| 10                   | Anantapur                               | Obaganapalli-Mushtivarlamanda         | G4         | REE, RM                |
| 11                   | West Godavari                           | Velagapadu                            | G4         | REE                    |
| Field Season 2022-23 |   |                                       |            |                        |
| 12                   | Kurnool                                 | Lanjabanda-Govardhanagiri             | G4         | Molybdenum             |
| 13                   | YSR Kadapa                              | Uppaluru                              | G3         | Cobalt, Nickel, Copper |
| 14                   | Chittoor                                | Chillamakulapalle - Narsimharajapuram | G4         | REE                    |
| 15                   | West Godavari                           | Kottapalle                            | G4         | REE                    |
| 16                   | Kadapa                                  | Khajipeta-Nandyalampeta               | G4         | Phosphorite            |
| 17                   | Kadapa                                  | Chennur                               | G4         | Phosphorite            |
| 18                   | Vizianagaram                            | Parasam-Garudabilli                   | G4         | Graphite, Manganese    |
| 19                   | Anantapur                               | Balepalyam                            | G3         | Tungsten               |
| 20                   | Vizianagaram                            | Garividi                              | G4         | REE, Manganese         |
| 21                   | Nellore                                 | Ayyagaripalem-Palicherlapadu          | G4         | REE, RM                |
| Field Season 2023-24 |   |                                       |            |                        |
| 22                   | East Godavari                           | Utlā                                  | G3         | Graphite               |
| 23                   | Anantapur                               | Kambaduru-Aiparsipalli                | G4         | REE, RM                |
| 24                   | Alluri Sitharama Raju and East Godavari | Narasapuram-Nellipudi                 | G4         | Graphite               |
| 25                   | Chittoor and Annamayya                  | Sorakayalapeta-Tummanaguntapalle      | G4         | REE                    |
| 26                   | Nellore                                 | Podilikonda and Kanigiri              | G4         | REE, RM                |
| 27                   | Prakasam                                | Chalivendra-Marlapalem                | G4         | REE, RM                |
| 28                   | Annamayya and Kolar                     | Surapuvaripalle-Kottapalli            | G4         | REE                    |
| 29                   | NTR and Palnadu                         | Jayantipuram-Vedadri                  | G4         | Cobalt                 |

|                      |                                     |                            |    |                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 30                   | Eluru                               | Mulagalampalli             | G4 | REE                 |
| Field Season 2024-25 |                                     |                            |    |                     |
| 1                    | Eluru                               | Aliveru-Doramamidi         | G4 | Graphite            |
| 2                    | Vizianagaram and Alluri Sitaramraju | Korlam-Budatanapalli       | G4 | Graphite, Manganese |
| 3                    | Y.S.R Kadapa                        | Murrichintala-Venkatapuram | G4 | Lithium             |
| 4                    | Nandyal and Ananthapuramu           | Kommamarri-Racherla        | G4 | Phosphorite         |
| 5                    | Nellore                             | Kottapalem-Chamadala       | G4 | REE                 |
| 6                    | Kurnool                             | Guduluru-Bollavaram        | G4 | Tin, Tungsten, RM   |
| 7                    | Annamayya                           | Endapally                  | G4 | REE, RM             |
| 8                    | Vijayanagaram and Visakhapatnam     | Chelluru-Savaravilli       | G4 | REE                 |