

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 442
ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024

CRITICAL MINERAL MISSION

442 SHRI BALYA MAMA SURESH GOPINATH MHATRE:
SHRI P P CHAUDHARY:
SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:
SHRI PARSHOTTAMBHAI RUPALA:
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:
SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched the Critical Minerals Mission and if so, the detailed framework and objectives thereof including the list of minerals identified as critical;
- (b) the specific steps taken to enhance domestic production of critical minerals including the allocation of funds and the identification of potential mining sites, if any State-wise;
- (c) whether any policy framework has been developed for recycling of critical minerals and urban mining and if so, the details thereof along with the targets set;
- (d) the details of steps taken for overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets including the countries identified and agreements signed, if any; and
- (e) whether any monitoring mechanism has been established to oversee the implementation of the Mission across domestic production, recycling and overseas acquisition and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Union Minister for Finance, in the Union Budget 2024-25, announced the setting up of a Critical Mineral Mission for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets on 23rd July, 2024. 24 Minerals have been listed as critical and strategic minerals in Part D of First Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957. List is placed at **Annexure-I**.

(b) In order to boost the domestic production, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, has been amended in 2023 to empower the Central Government to auction blocks for 24 critical and strategic minerals. So far 22 blocks have been successfully auctioned. Additionally, a new mineral concession namely, Exploration Licence has been introduced for 29 minerals as included in Seventh Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957 which includes 22 critical and strategic minerals. This permits the licensee to undertake reconnaissance and prospecting operations for these minerals.

To enhance the exploration program for identifying potential mining sites in order to boost domestic production for the critical minerals, Geological Survey of India (GSI) had taken up 368 mineral exploration projects on various critical and strategic minerals during the last three years (2021-22 to 2023-24). In the current year 2024-25, GSI has taken up 195 mineral exploration projects of critical and strategic minerals across the country.

Ministry has also focussed on funding various projects of mining exploration through National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET). So far, NMET has funded total 443 projects out of which 139 projects are of critical minerals through various exploration agencies. Further, in order to encourage private participation in exploration, Ministry of Mines has notified 25 private exploration agencies (NPEAs). These agencies are taking up exploration projects through NMET. Additionally, the Ministry has issued a scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expenses for holders of Composite Licences and Exploration Licences to encourage various agencies to come into mining exploration sector. State-wise Summary of successful auctioned Blocks for Critical & Strategic Mineral in Various Tranches is placed in **Annexure-II**.

(c) A draft framework to encourage the Indian industry to develop recycling capacity in the country for the separation and production of critical minerals from secondary sources through recycling is being designed for undertaking stakeholder consultations. Under this framework, the recycling capacity of dead lithium ion battery is expected to increase four-fold during the duration of the Critical Mineral Mission from the present annual capacity, which as per industry source is around 75,000 tonnes. In addition, the Government has eliminated the import duty on waste & scrap of six critical minerals, which will help promote recycling in these minerals.

(d) In order to acquire critical minerals abroad, the Ministry has signed MoUs with resource rich countries having rich critical mineral resources. Further, Ministry of Mines has set up Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL), a joint venture, to identify and acquire overseas mineral assets. KABIL has signed an Exploration and Development Agreement with CAMYEN, a state-owned enterprise of Catamarca province of Argentina, for exploration and mining of Five adjacent Lithium Block in Argentina.

(e) Ministry of Mines is closely monitoring the domestic production, recycling and overseas acquisition of critical minerals.

Annexure-I

List of Critical and Strategic Minerals specified in Part D of First Schedule of the MMDR Act [24 minerals]

1. Beryl and other beryllium bearing minerals.
2. Cadmium bearing minerals.
3. Cobalt bearing minerals.
4. Gallium bearing minerals.
5. Glauconite.
6. Graphite.
7. Indium bearing minerals.
8. Lithium bearing minerals.
9. Molybdenum bearing minerals.
10. Nickel bearing minerals.
11. Niobium bearing minerals.
12. Phosphate (without uranium).
13. Platinum group of elements bearing minerals.
14. Potash.
15. Minerals of the "rare earths" group not containing Uranium and Thorium.
16. Rhenium bearing minerals.
17. Selenium bearing minerals.
18. Tantalum bearing minerals.
19. Tellurium bearing minerals.
20. Tin bearing minerals.
21. Titanium bearing minerals and ores (ilmenite, rutile and leucoxene).
22. Tungsten bearing minerals.
23. Vanadium bearing minerals.
24. Zirconium-bearing minerals and ores including zircon.

Annexure-II

State-wise Summary of the successful auctioned Blocks for the Auction of Critical & Strategic Mineral in Various Tranches

Sl. No.	States	Total Successful auctioned blocks
1	Andhra Pradesh	1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4
3	Bihar	3
4	Chhattisgarh	1
5	Karnataka	2
6	Madhya Pradesh	3
7	Odisha	3
8	Tamil Nadu	2
9	Uttar Pradesh	3
	TOTAL	22
