

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2135
ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025

MINERAL EXPLORATION

2135. SHRI JASHUBHAI BHILUBHAI RATHVA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the key initiatives implemented by the Government to enhance mineral exploration in the country particularly through the National Geoscientific Data Repository (NGDR) Portal and the new reimbursement schemes for exploration expenses; and

(b) the manner in which the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) is supporting mineral exploration and promoting innovation among start-ups and MSMEs in the mining sector?

ANSWER

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

(a): National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) portal is a cloud-based portal created to expedite and facilitate mineral exploration coverage of the country by hosting all baseline and exploration-related geoscientific data in a single GIS platform, making it available to all the stakeholders and disseminate the geospatial data in a single window system. Geological Survey of India (GSI) is the nodal agency for NGDR portal and it is funded by National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET). Currently, 9767 reports of GSI, 1303 reports of stakeholders and data related to more than 35 layers are available in NGDR portal for download to registered users.

NMET has launched a scheme for partial reimbursement of exploration expense for holders of Exploration Licences where NMET will partially reimburse exploration expenses incurred by Exploration Licence Holders upto 50% of direct cost with ceiling of ₹20 Crores. NMET also supports holders of Composite Licences with the scheme for Partial reimbursement of exploration expenses upto 50% of direct cost incurred for exploration with ceiling of ₹8 Crores.

Furthermore, NMET also provides Exploration Incentive of 25% of the approved cost of the project for G4 items in greenfield areas for gold, basemetals, other precious

minerals, strategic/ critical minerals and fertilizer minerals if the block is upgraded from G4 to G3 Stage.

(b): Since its inception in August 2015, NMET has funded 503 projects with an approved cost of ₹2846.30 Crore including regional and detailed exploration projects along with baseline survey, financial assistance to Central agencies and State Governments, incentives to States and mineral exploration by Notified Exploration Agencies and Notified Private Exploration Agencies etc. NMET is promoting research and innovation in Start-ups, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Individual Innovators by funding projects under the Science and Technology (S&T) Prism Programme. Till date, NMET has funded 22 Projects with approved cost of ₹28.43 Crore.
