

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3116
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025

MoU BETWEEN INDIA AND ARGENTINA ON LITHIUM EXPLORATION

†3116. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI HASMUKHBHAI SOMABHAI PATEL:
SHRI MITESH PATEL BAKABHAI:
SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the expected long-term benefits of the MoU signed between India and Argentina in the context of lithium exploration;
- (b) the details of the key provisions of the said MoU including the scope of cooperation and financial commitments;
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure that lithium imports from Argentina remain stable and are not impacted by geopolitical risks; and
- (d) whether the Indian private sector companies are likely to be allowed to participate in lithium mining and processing activities under the said MoU and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COAL & MINES
(SHRI G KISHAN REDDY)

(a): Argentina holds large lithium reserves and is a key player in the global lithium market. Recognizing the strategic importance of lithium for clean energy and technology sectors, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on August 26, 2022 between Ministry of Mines of the Government of India and the Secretariat of Mining of the Ministry of Economy of Argentina for cooperation in mineral resources.

The long-term benefits of this MoU include securing a stable lithium supply for India's growing electric vehicle (EV) and renewable energy industries, and strengthening bilateral economic ties between the two nations.

(b): This MoU outlines scope of cooperation which inter-alia includes cooperation in lithium exploration, extraction, and processing. It emphasizes knowledge sharing on sustainable mining practices, facilitates investment and partnerships between two nations, encourages joint research and development (R&D) and training and capacity building of Geo-scientists.

As per the MoU, each participant will cover their own expenses related to collaborative activities undertaken for fulfilment of the objective of the MoU. However, at present there is no specific direct financial commitments.

(c): To ensure a stable supply of lithium and mitigate geopolitical risks, India is adopting a multi-faceted approach. This includes diversifying its sources by engaging with multiple lithium-rich nations, fostering long-term agreements and strengthening diplomatic and economic ties.

(d): The MoU is designed to encourage the participation of both Indian PSUs and private sector companies in lithium mining and processing activities in Argentina.
