

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4241
ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025

JOINT RESEARCH INITIATIVES BY INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION

†4241. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific field in which training is likely to be provided to geologists from Saudi Arabia, Africa and Central Asia by Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI), Hyderabad;
- (b) the investment opportunities discussed between India and Saudi Arabia in the field of mineral exploration;
- (c) whether any joint research initiatives have been taken between India and Saudi Arabia in the field of mineral exploration; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI), Hyderabad offers trainings on various fields of geosciences to the geoscientists from countries across Asia, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America through Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) platform of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). GSITI also provides need-based trainings as per the specific requirements of partner countries.

For the year 2025-26, GSI has proposed four training program in the following geoscientific fields under ITEC platform:

- i. Remote Sensing and Digital Image Processing for Geoscientists;
- ii. Geographic Information System for Geoscientists;
- iii. Fundamentals of Geological Mapping and Mineral Exploration; and
- iv. Fundamentals of Geophysical Mapping and Geological Interpretation.

(b) The potential investment opportunities regarding investment in resource-rich countries; collaboration on critical mineral exploration, processing, and recycling; promoting joint ventures to support clean energy technologies etc. are discussed.

(c) and (d) Indian side is in discussion with Saudi Arabian side for an MoU between Geological Survey of India and Saudi Geological Survey, which may *inter-alia* facilitate undertaking joint research in mineral exploration.
