

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1758**  
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025

**NMET-FUNDS**

1758. SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the total number of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) funded exploration projects currently underway in Telangana as of 31st March 2025;
- (b) the details of the total funds sanctioned and utilised under the NMET during the year 2024-25 in Telangana;
- (c) the details of the estimated quantum of mineral reserves discovered in Telangana under NMET funded surveys since its inception and the current stage of those blocks; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to ensure financial transparency, accountability and timely completion surveys of NMET projects in Telangana?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) A total of **03** number of NMET funded exploration projects are currently underway in Telangana as of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025. The details are at **Annexure – I**.
- (b) The details of the total funds sanctioned and utilised under NMET in the year 2024-25 in Telangana are given at **Annexure-II**.
- (c) The details of estimated quantum of mineral reserves discovered in Telangana under NMET funded surveys since its inception and the current stage of those blocks are given at **Annexure-III**.
- (d) Following initiatives have been taken to ensure financial transparency, accountability and timely completion of projects in Telangana:

**Financial transparency and accountability:**

- NMET disburses 40% of the approved budget as a mobilization advance to the State Directorate of Geology and Mining, the Directorate of Mining and Geology, and Notified Exploration Agency to initiate and carry out projects. After receiving the utilization certificate for the first 40% advance, the next 40% instalment is released. The final payment is issued upon project completion, following a review of the work and receipt of the project report from the agencies.
- For Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs), NMET provides up to a 30% mobilization advance once it receives an equivalent bank guarantee from the agencies. The remaining amount is released after adjusting for the previously issued advance, based on a reimbursement system. The nodal officer from State Unit of Telangana, GSI, examine(s)/monitor(s) the work executed by the NPEA in the State and verify the bills claimed by NPEA for such purpose.
- NMET has incorporated accountability and transparency measures in its sanction orders as provided in the General Financial Rules. In terms of Rule 230, 235, 236 and 238 of GFR, the agency should maintain subsidiary accounts of the Government Grants and furnish the same to the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry. The account shall be open to inspection by the Sanctioning Authority and audit, both by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and internal audit by the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry of Mines, whenever the Organization is called upon to do so. As per Rule 236(3) of GFR, the agency shall get its accounts audited by Chartered Accountants and submit an audit report w.r.t the financial and physical performance of the project as stipulated in the sanction order and the cost sheet at the time of submission of the final bill.

**Timely completion of Projects:**

- The approved projects are periodically reviewed by the Technical-Cum-Cost Committee of NMET.
- For any local administrative issues encountered during the projects, concerned District and State authorities are consulted to facilitate and resolve the issues.

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**Annexure: I****Total number of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) funded exploration**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Implementing Agency</b>	<b>Approved Cost (₹ in Cr.)</b>	<b>Disbursed Cost (₹ in Cr.)</b>
1.	Preliminary Exploration (G3 Stage) for Limestone in Mangrur block, Adilabad District, Telangana	Maheshwari Mining Private Limited	0.69	0.21
2.	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for REE and associated minerals in Nellikudur area Mahabubabad and Warangal districts, Telangana	Critical Mineral Trackers	1.03	0.31
3.	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) For Limestone In Kodangal Block, Vikarabad District, Telangana State	Telangana Mineral Development Corporation Limited	1.61	0.65

**Annexure: II****The total funds sanctioned and utilised under the NMET in the year 2024-25**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Funds Sanctioned (₹ in Cr.)</b>	<b>Funds Released (₹ in Cr.)</b>
1.	Mineral Exploration projects funded by NMET	Notified Exploration Agency	1.61	0.65
		Notified Private Exploration Agency	1.73	0.52
2.	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.	Directorate of Mining & Geology, Telangana	7.51	3.00
3.	Incentive to State Governments in respect of auction of mineral blocks	Directorate of Mining & Geology, Telangana	0.40	0.40
4.	Scheme for providing matching grant of 10% of annual collection in SMET	Directorate of Mining & Geology, Telangana	1.95	1.95

**Annexure: III**

**The details of estimated quantum of mineral reserves discovered in Telangana under NMET funded surveys**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Commodity</b>	<b>No. of Projects</b>	<b>Estimated Reserve (MT)</b>	<b>Present Stage</b>
1.	Limestone	10	152.07	02 are auctioned
			41.68	01 can be auctioned
			55.51	07 further exploration needed
2.	Copper, Lead & Zinc	1	0.71	Can be Auctioned
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>		