

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2802**  
ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025

**PROMOTION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN MINING**

2802. SMT. POONAMBEN HEMATBHAI MAADAM:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote research and development in the mining sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has identified any priority areas for supporting research in the field of mining; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which these research projects evaluated and selected for funding?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): Yes. Ministry of Mines, under its Science and Technology (S&T) programme, funds eligible institutions to undertake research & development (R&D) projects to promote applied research in geo-sciences, mineral exploration, mining, mineral processing, material science and allied areas. During FY 2024-25, 42 R&D projects were approved for financial assistance amounting to ₹29.49 crores. Further, under the S&T programme, the Ministry also funds research and innovation in Start-ups and MSMEs working in the field of mining and mineral sector to bridge the gap between R&D and commercialisation, and also to promote the eco-system for complete value chain in the sector. During FY 2024-25, a total of 21 Start-ups / MSMEs have been approved for funding of an amount of ₹27.24 crores. Moreover, Ministry of Mines has recognized 7 institutes as Centres of Excellence (CoE) under the National Critical Mineral Mission to undertake innovative and transformational research, so as to strengthen and advance the nation's science and technology capability in the area of critical minerals.

(c) & (d): Yes. Priority areas have been identified for supporting directed research and innovation in mining, and include R&D in critical materials, rare earth, circular

economy, energy efficiency, and new materials and processes. The evaluation and selection of R&D projects involves a three-tier screening mechanism through Preliminary Scrutiny Committee, Project Evaluation and Review Committee and Standing Scientific Advisory Group. Domain experts and senior scientists are part of these committees.

\*\*\*\*\*