

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 506
ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025

PRODUCTION OF CRITICAL MINERALS

506. SMT. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the production capacity and actual production of each critical mineral identified by the Government during the last five years, year and mineral-wise;
- (b) the total estimated domestic demand for critical minerals by 2030 and the share currently being met through domestic production versus imports;
- (c) the list of countries from which India imports the highest quantities of critical minerals and the value of such imports during the last five years;
- (d) the details on the progress achieved under the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) and progress achieved so far; and
- (e) whether India's processing and refining capacity for critical minerals is adequate to meet the needs of various industries and steps proposed to enhance domestic value chains?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Critical minerals currently produced in the country through mining are Graphite, Phosphorite, Rare Earth Elements (REE), Titanium bearing minerals and Zirconium bearing mineral. Production details of these critical minerals for last five years is at **Annexure-I**. Besides some quantities of Tin, Nickel, Cobalt, Cadmium, Vanadium and Platinum group of elements (PGE), Lithium, Selenium, Indium are also produced in the country.

Various studies indicate significant increase in demand for critical mineral in India by 2030 - for lithium by about 6-8 times, cobalt by 3-5 times, REE, nickel and graphite by nearly 1.5 to 2 times. Details of the top countries from which India imports critical minerals, along with the total value of imports during last five years placed in **Annexure-II**.

(d) and (e): The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) on 29.01.2025 with the objectives of securing India's critical

mineral supply chain and strengthening the critical mineral value chains. The progress made in various aspects of this Mission, *inter-alia*, includes the following:

- Geological Survey of India (GSI) has intensified exploration of critical minerals. GSI carried out 195 critical mineral exploration projects in 2024-25, and 230 projects in 2025-26 across the country. Additionally, National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) has sanctioned 62 projects for exploration of critical minerals during 2024-25 and 36 projects during 2025-26 (till date).
- The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act), 1957 has been amended in 2025 vide which the scope of NMEDT has been expanded to support critical mineral exploration and mining overseas.
- The Central Government has successfully auctioned 34 blocks of critical minerals.
- The Central Government has successfully auctioned 7 blocks of Exploration License, out of which, 3 are critical mineral blocks.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹1,500 crore Incentive Scheme to promote critical mineral recycling. The Scheme Guidelines were issued and the Scheme launched on 02.10.2025 and the scheme rolled out.
- Guidelines for funding pilot projects for the recovery of critical minerals from overburden/ tailings/ fly ash/ red mud, etc have been issued on 14.11.2025.
- The Government has recognised nine premier institutes as Centres of Excellence (CoEs) under the NCMM to carry out Research & Development (R&D) for strengthening domestic capabilities in the critical mineral value chain. Each CoE operates as a consortium, on a Hub & Spoke model, to leverage the core competence of constituent industry and academic spokes.
- Under NCMM, ₹500 crore has been earmarked to build domestic critical mineral processing capabilities by developing mineral processing parks using existing infrastructure.

Annexure-I**Year-wise production of critical minerals in last 5 years (in tonnes)**

Mineral	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (P)	2024-25 (P)
Graphite	35,386	62,888	94,789	1,69,080	85,329
Phosphorite	14,55,829	13,94,959	19,78,450	15,57,783	18,05,914
Rare Earth Elements as Oxide (REO)	1994	2510	2511	2642	2345
Titanium bearing minerals	3,33,604	3,66,445	3,69,160	4,00,152	4,34,309
Zirconium bearing mineral	12,240	10,616	10,988	13,962	15,322
Source: <i>Indian Bureau of Mines (MCDR returns) and IREL (India) Ltd.</i> (P): <i>Provisional</i>					

Annexure-II**Top import source countries and value of imports of critical minerals**

#	Critical mineral	Top import source(s)	Total value of imports from all sources from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 (₹ crores)
1	Beryllium	Belgium, France,	2.3
2	Cadmium	South Korea, China	834.9
3	Cobalt	China, Belgium, Netherland, Norway	896.1
4,5	Gallium, Indium	Russia, China	4.3
6	Graphite	China, Madagascar	6,329.2
7	Lithium	Belgium, USA, Russia	1,951.5
8	Molybdenum	Chile, USA, China	13,644.1
9	Niobium	Canada, Germany, Russia	95.1
10	Nickel	Norway, China, South Africa, Belgium, Australia	28,688.1
11	Platinum Group Elements (PGE)	UAE, UK, South Africa	68,619.0

12	Phosphorous	Jordan, Egypt, Togo, Morocco	59,898.2
13,14	Potash, Glaucinite	Russia, Canada	48,476.6
15	REE	China, Japan, USA	721.7
16	Rhenium	-	Nil
17	Selenium	Japan, South Korea	345.5
18	Tantalum	China , Estonia, USA	10.9
19	Tellurium	China, Japan, Germany	15.1
20	Tin	Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia	13,916.8
21	Titanium	Mozambique, Malaysia, South Korea, China, Kazakhstan USA, Singapore	5,502.1
22	Tungsten	Netherland, Japan, China	224.9
23	Vanadium	South Korea, Thailand, China, Canada	908.1
24	Zirconium	Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia	6,253.5

Note: Includes ore/ concentrate/ compound/ unwrought metal/ waste & scrap of critical minerals