

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.557
ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025

CRITICAL MINERALS AND DEEP-SEA EXPLORATION

557. SHRI VISHWESHWAR HEGDE KAGERI:
SHRI KALI CHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the exploration and auction of 20 identified critical mineral blocks;
- (b) the steps being taken to expedite technical cooperation/tie-ups for exploration of seabed resources in the Indian Ocean;
- (c) the details of proposed research areas and facilities for critical mineral processing at the National Institute of Advanced Mineral Technology; and
- (d) the details of specific financial incentives being provided to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the mining sector?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of the Ministry of Mines, carries out mineral exploration, including critical minerals, and has handed over Geological Reports of 83 critical mineral blocks and Geological Memorandums of 77 critical mineral blocks to the Central Government. So far, 59 critical mineral blocks have been auctioned successfully. Further, the Central Government has notified Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) of 23 critical mineral blocks for auction.

(b): The Ministry of Earth Sciences conducts exploration of deep seabed mineral resources beyond India's EEZ in the Indian Ocean through signed contract with the International Seabed Authority.

(c): There is no institute with the name 'National Institute of Advanced Mineral Technology'. In view of this, question does not arise.

(d): In order to attract Foreign Direct Investment(FDI), as per the FDI Policy, 2020, 100% FDI is allowed under automatic route for mining and exploration of metal and non-metal ores including diamond, gold, silver and precious ores but excluding titanium bearing minerals and its ores.
