

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †598**  
ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025

**EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES FOR REEs**

†598. SHRI BAJRANG MANOHAR SONWANE:  
SHRI SANJAY UTTAMRAO DESHMUKH:  
SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has initiated/approved any new geological surveys or exploration activities across various States of the country including Maharashtra for Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and other critical minerals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the locations identified, progress made and findings of such explorations;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any policy or scheme to promote value addition and processing of critical minerals and REEs at local level in such States prior to their export;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the total amount of funds allocated and utilised for mineral exploration and value addition during the last three financial years across all States of the country?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): The Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of the Ministry of Mines, carries out mineral exploration activities across the country including Maharashtra for Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and other critical minerals. The year-wise total number of projects taken up by GSI for critical minerals including REEs is as below:

Field Season	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Total number of mineral exploration projects	251	319	360	435	462
Total projects on critical and strategic minerals	118	123	127	195	230
Total number exploration projects on REEs	58	49	59	78	93

Since the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015, GSI has augmented resources for REEs, Lithium, Nickel, Graphite, Vanadium, Cobalt, Tungsten, and other critical and strategic

minerals specified in Part D of First Schedule to the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023 across the country, including Maharashtra, and the resource augmented is given at **Annexure-I**.

Further, the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) has approved 177 mineral exploration projects for REEs and other critical minerals in the country which include 10 critical mineral projects in Maharashtra. Out of these 177 projects, 72 project have been completed and the details of projects where resource has been augmented are at **Annexure-II**.

(c) & (d): The Central Government has launched National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in January, 2025 with an aim to secure a long-term sustainable supply of critical minerals and strengthen country's critical mineral value chains encompassing all stages from mineral exploration and mining to beneficiation, processing and recycling through recovery from end-of-life products. Under NCMM, ₹500 crore has been earmarked for developing mineral processing parks using existing infrastructure.

(e): The total amount of funds allocated and utilised for mineral exploration and value addition by GSI and NMEDT during the last three years financial years i.e. from 2022-23 to 2024-25, are as follows:

Agency	Funds Allocated	Funds Utilized
GSI	196.05 crore	195.72 crore
NMET	629.0 crore	310.0 crore

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Telangana	10.85						85.21		53.13										
West Bengal	0.68																		
<b>Total</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1542</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>28.44</b>	<b>3.5</b>

## Annexure-II

Details of NMEDT approved and completed mineral exploration projects for Rare Earth Elements(REEs) and other critical minerals

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the Block	Commodity	State	Resource (Million Tonnes)
1	2016-17	Namakkal Block, District- Namakkal, Perambalur, Tamil Nadu	Nickel(Ni), Chromium(Cr) and Magnesite	Tamil Nadu	60.35
2	2017-18	Mollen-Jopi-Ziphu and adjoining area, Naga Hills Ophiolite, District- Phek, Nagaland.	Magnetite And Ni-Co-Cr	Nagaland	5.38
3	2017-18	Lakhasar Block, District- Bikaner, Rajasthan.	Potash	Rajasthan	3294.38
4	2017-18	Sonrai rock phosphate deposit, Tehsil- Mehrauni, District- Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh.	Phosphorite	Uttar Pradesh	16.89
5	2019-20	Lakhasar-sub basin, North-Western part of Rajasthan, District- Bikaner, Rajasthan.	Potash	Rajasthan	92.354
6	2020-21	Preliminary Exploration (G3 stage) for Potash in Bharusari North Block (10 sq. km.), Northwestern Part of Rajasthan, District: Hanumangarh, Rajasthan	Potash	Rajasthan	5.849
7	2020-21	Evaluation of Graphite Resources in already explored G2 manganese blocks of Tamiya, Rengali, Babja and Biarpalli, District- Balangir, Odisha.	Graphite	Odisha	1.447
8	2021-22	Reconnaissance survey for Manganese ore and Graphite in Larambha-Kanaital & Pudapadar-Bharatbahal Blocks, District: Balangir	Manganese Ore and Graphite	Odisha	2.03
9	2022-23	Preliminary exploration for Phosphorite in Pahadi Kalan-Gora Kalan Block, District Lalitpur	Phosphorite	Uttar Pradesh	19.08
10	2022-23	Preliminary exploration for Graphite and Manganese in Salepali block, District Balangir	Graphite And Manganese	Odisha	0.17
11	2022-23	Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for glauconitic sandstone in Pindra SW extension block (40.0 sq. km), District: Satna, Madhya Pradesh.	Potash	Madhya Pradesh	1918
12	2021-22	Reconnaissance survey for PGE, Nickel, Cobalt and Gold in Rangapura Block, District:Hassan, Karnataka	Nickel, Cobalt, PGE, Gold	Karnataka	0.76
13	2022-23	Preliminary exploration for Manganese in Hardatal block (1.38 sq. km), District: Balangir, Odisha.	Manganese And Graphite	Odisha	0.94
14	2022-23	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for Graphite in Thapen and Bazargarh	Graphite	Odisha	0.125

		blocks (116.49 sq. km), District: Kalahandi, Odisha.			
15	2022-23	Preliminary exploration (G3) for phosphorite in Kachaldara East block (5.60 sq. km), District: Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh.	Phosphorite	Madhya Pradesh	0.38
16	2022-23	Preliminary exploration (G3) for Potash in Lakhasar East block, Lakhasar-Sub Basin, North Western Part of Rajasthan, District: Bikaner, Rajasthan. (Block Area 7.16 sq. km)	Potash	Rajasthan	24.76
17	2023-24	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Graphite in Ganacharpura Block (33.60 Sq. Km), Kolar District, Karnataka.	Graphite	Karnataka	0.556
18	2023-24	Preliminary Exploration (G-3 stage) for Manganese & Graphite in Kanaital Block (4.26 sq.km.), Balangir District, Odisha.	Manganese and Graphite	Odisha	4.56
19	2020-21	Bharusari sub basin, North Western part of Rajasthan, district- Hanumangarh, Rajasthan.	Potash	Rajasthan	12.839
20	2022-23	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for Graphite in Lamer-Panga block (49.08 sq. km), District: Kalahandi, Odisha.	Graphite	Odisha	2.034
21	2023-24	Preliminary Exploration (G-3 stage) for Manganese & Graphite in Larambha Block (2.57 sq.km.), Balangir District, Odisha	Manganese and Graphite	Odisha	1.0
22	2023-24	Preliminary Exploration (G-3 Stage) for Bauxite, Titanium & Associated Minerals in Siskari Pat Block (0.28 Sq km) District – Lohardaga, Jharkhand.	Bauxite, Titanium and Associated Minerals	Jharkhand	20.9
23	2023-24	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Graphite in Dindo-Belkurta-Basera Block, District: Surguja, Chhattisgarh.	Graphite	Chhattisgarh	0.103
24	2023-24	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Potash in Dhankowali Dhani (North) Block (9.63 sq.km.), Satipura Sub Basin, Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan.	Potash	Rajasthan	74.22
25	2023-24	Preliminary Exploration (G-3 stage) for Rock Phosphate in Nimbli Block (2.70 sq.km.), Jaisalmer District, Rajasthan.	Rock Phosphate	Rajasthan	3.24
26	2023-24	<b>Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Vanadium and Titanium in Beach and Dune Sand of Talashil Block in Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra</b>	<b>Titanium and Vanadium</b>	<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>4.2115</b>
27	2022-23	Preliminary exploration (G3) for graphite in Lamer Panga Graphite Block-B (12.994 sq. km) Kalahandi district Odisha.	Graphite	Odisha	1.304
28	2021-22	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Manganese and Graphite in	Manganese and Graphite	Odisha	0.59

		Bharatbahal Block (2.00 Sq. Km.) District- Balangir, Odisha			
29	2022-23	Preliminary exploration (G3) for Graphite in Lamer-Panga block A (13.99 sq. km), District: Kalahandi, Odisha.	Graphite	Odisha	3.098
30	2023-24	Reconnaissance Survey (G4 stage) for Kanapulisi Graphite Block (98.3 sq.km.), Rayagada District, Odisha.	Graphite	Odisha	0.176
31	2022-23	Preliminary exploration (G3) for graphite around Naringapanga block (S & W) (0.143 sq. km) block, District: Rayagada, Odisha.	Graphite	Odisha	0.41343
32	2023-24	Preliminary Exploration ( G3 ) for vanadium and titanium in Dandi-Onjal-Surwada Block in Navasari and Valsad Districts, Gujarat	Vanadium and Titanium	Gujarat	12.817
33	2023-24	Reconnaissance Survey (G4 Stage) for Graphite in Ranibandh Block, Bankura district, West Bengal	Graphite	West Bengal	1.38
34	2024-25	Reconnaissance survey (G-4) for Glauconitic sandstone in Parsada-Nawapara-Gurur area (146.27 sq km), Balod district, Chhattisgarh	Glauconite	Chhattisgarh	104.53
35	2024-25	Preliminary Exploration Of Vanadium And Gallium Bearing Aluminous Laterite In Mundalli Block (4.754 Sq Km), Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka	Aluminous Laterite And Associated Critical Elements	Karnataka	54.263