

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 745
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026

INDIA'S CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS TO REDUCE IMPORT

745. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government categorically assures that India's critical mineral supply chains will be resilient, diversified and capable of supporting the country's electronics, clean energy and manufacturing ambitions without undue foreign dependency and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether any safeguards exist to prevent diversion, manipulation and hoarding by domestic or foreign companies taking into account the strategic importance of rare earth elements for clean energy and defence technology and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government plans to integrate domestic mining, refining and manufacturing to reduce dependence on imports and if so, the details thereof along with the timelines and targets set for achieving self-reliance and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken any risk analysis to evaluate the impact of global price volatility or geopolitical tensions on critical mineral availability and if so, the details thereof along with contingency measures in place and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): 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 NCMM envisions securing a long-term sustainable supply of critical minerals and strengthen India's critical mineral value chains encompassing all stages from mineral exploration and mining to beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products, in coordination with States and industry, with a view to reducing import dependence for strategic sectors such as electronics, clean energy and manufacturing.

Further, NCMM provides an enabling framework for strengthening supply chain resilience, including a joint initiative between central PSUs and with private companies to guard against supply disruptions by foreign companies and aid mineral supply for domestic utilisation.

Moreover, to meet current and future requirements of critical minerals, the Government has adopted a comprehensive strategy and taken several initiatives, which inter-alia include the following:

- i. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has intensified exploration of critical minerals. GSI carried out 195 critical mineral exploration projects in 2024-25, and took up 230 projects in 2025-26 across the country. In addition, the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) sanctioned 62 projects for critical mineral exploration during 2024–25 and 60 projects during 2025–26 to Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs)/Notified Exploration Agencies (NEAs).
- ii. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act), 1957 has been amended in 2025 whereby the scope of NMEDT has been expanded to support critical mineral exploration and mining overseas.
- iii. Since the amendment to the MMDR Act in 2023, Central Government has successfully auctioned 46 blocks of Critical and Strategic Mineral. In addition, 7 blocks have been auctioned under the Exploration Licence regime, out of which 3 are critical mineral blocks.
- iv. The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹1,500 crore Incentive Scheme to promote critical mineral recycling. The Scheme Guidelines were issued and the Scheme was launched on 02.10.2025.
- v. Guidelines for funding pilot projects for the recovery of critical minerals from overburden/ tailings/ fly ash/ red mud, etc were issued on 14.11.2025.
- vi. Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) has signed an Exploration and Development Agreement with CAMYEN, a state-owned enterprise of Catamarca province of Argentina, for exploration and mining of five Lithium Brine Blocks in Argentina covering an area of 15703 Ha.

Further, following safeguards to prevent diversion, manipulation & hoarding of monazite, the principal ore of REEs in India, are in place:

- i) Ministry of Mines vide notification No. GSR No. 134(E) dated 20.02.2019 amended the threshold value of Monazite for BSM occurring in teri or placer deposits as "0.00% in Total Heavy Minerals (THM) under Atomic Minerals Concession Rules 2016" thus ensuring complete government control over mining of prescribed substance Monazite occurring within the Beach Sand Minerals (BSM).
- ii) Further, Ministry of Commerce and Industry notified export policy on BSM vide Directorate General of Foreign Trade notification No.26/2015-2020 dated

21.08.2018 under which exports of BSM have been brought under State Trading Enterprise.

The NCMM outlines the following outputs/targets:

Key heads	Total (FY 2024-25 to 2030-31)
Domestic Critical Mineral Exploration Projects	1200
Foreign Critical Mineral Mines	50
Incentive scheme for recycling - total materials recycled (kt)	400
Patents in critical mineral value chain	1000
Skill development	10000
Mineral Processing Parks	4
Centre of Excellence	3
Mineral Stockpile (cumulative)	5

As envisaged in the NCMM, the framework includes provisions for periodic refinement of the criticality assessment based on supply risk and economic importance, updating the list of critical minerals for India, and assessment of associated risks in consultation with stakeholders. The Mission also provides for demand assessments aligned with industrial and technological requirements, as well as risk mitigation.
