

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.769
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026

SONO JAMUI GOLD PROJECT

769. SHRI ARUN BHARTI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has approved/sanctioned the G-2 or G-1 stage exploration for the Sono (Karmatia) Gold Block in Jamui district of Bihar during Financial Year 2025–26 and if so, the status of the drilling activities and timeline;
- (b) the details of physical and financial progress of the resource estimation report by Geological Survey of India (GSI)/Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) for this block as on 1st January, 2026;
- (c) whether funds released vs utilised under the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) for the Jamui gold project during Financial Year 2025–26 and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether a shortfall was identified in the assay results regarding gold concentration (g/tonne) and if so, the details thereof along with the remedial timeline for re-evaluation; and
- (e) whether new approvals proposed for auctioning the Sono Gold Block for commercial mining in Financial Year 2026–27 and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): The Geological Survey of India took up a two-year reconnaissance survey (G4 stage) for gold in and around Karmatiya, Boutha, Mahugaon and Sono areas of Jamui district, Bihar during field season 2023-24 & 2024-25. No positive outcome could be established from the survey and hence, no G3/G2 stage exploration was carried out. The Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited has also not carried out any exploration activity in Sono, Jamui district, Bihar.

(c) and (d): The National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) has not funded any mineral exploration project in Jamui district, Bihar.

(e): There is no proposal for auctioning the Sono Gold Block for commercial mining in financial year 2026-27.
