

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 548**  
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2026

**S&T-PRISM**

548. SHRI B K PARTHASARATHI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that have applied and been selected under the Promotion of Research and Innovation in Start-ups and MSMEs (S&T-PRISM) initiative, State and year-wise since inception;
- (b) the amount of financial assistance sanctioned, released and disbursed to such selected entities, State and year-wise;
- (c) the pilot-scale and R&D-scale facilities supported for processing and recovery of rare earth materials including locations, implementing agencies and current status of operation;
- (d) whether successful recovery of rare earth minerals has been initiated or achieved through such supported pilot projects;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the type and quantity of minerals recovered, State and project-wise; and
- (f) the details of the technology outcomes, commercial readiness and scale-up plans emerging from such pilot projects?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES  
(SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY)

(a): Since inception, 40 projects out of 394 applications received from Start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) under the S&T-PRISM (Promotion of Research & Innovation in Start-ups and MSMEs) component of the Science and Technology (S&T) Programme of Ministry of Mines have been selected on merit basis for financial assistance. The State and year-wise details of applications received and selected under the S&T-PRISM component are at Annexure-I.

(b): Financial assistance of ₹52.13 crore has been sanctioned and ₹23.83 crore have been released to such selected entities. The State and year-wise details of the assistance sanctioned, released/ disbursed are at Annexure-II.

(c) to (f): The details of four pilot-scale and R&D-scale projects supported for processing and recovery of rare earth materials, including their location, implementing agencies and current status are at Annexure-III.

One pilot project for production of Neodymium–Praseodymium (Nd–Pr) metal has been successfully completed by M/s Ashvini Rare Earth Pvt. Ltd., Pune, Maharashtra. The project scaled up from laboratory Technology Readiness Level (TRL-4) to TRL-7, demonstrating production of Nd–Pr metal from Nd–Pr oxide through the calciothermic reduction route and approximately 100 kg NdPr metal recovered. The pilot plant has been commissioned with an installed capacity of approximately 36 tonnes per annum of Nd–Pr metal.

Another completed project, M/s Innocule Materials and Additives Pvt. Ltd., Bhubaneswar, Odisha, has successfully demonstrated the complete process flow for the recovery of scandium oxide from red mud, scaling up from laboratory-scale (TRL-4) to TRL-6, through an integrated pilot plant capable of processing 2 tonne of red mud per day. Through pilot-scale operations, this facility has produced approximately 250 grams of scandium oxide ( $\text{Sc}_2\text{O}_3$ ).

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## Annexure-I

Annexure-I referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 548 answered on 22.07.2026 regarding 'S&T-PRISM'

**Table: State and year-wise details of applications received and projects selected under S&T-PRISM component**

| State/UT           | 2023      |          | 2024       |           | 2025      |          | 2026      |          |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
|                    | Applied   | Selected | Applied    | Selected  | Applied   | Selected | Applied   | Selected |
| Andhra Pradesh     | 2         | -        | 3          | -         | -         | -        | 1         | -        |
| Arunachal Pradesh  | 1         | -        | -          | -         | -         | -        | -         | -        |
| Assam              | 1         | -        | 2          | -         | -         | -        | -         | -        |
| Bihar              | -         | -        | 2          | -         | -         | -        | 1         | -        |
| Chhattisgarh       | 1         | -        | 4          | -         | 1         | -        | 2         | -        |
| Delhi              | -         | -        | 13         | 1         | 2         | -        | 3         | -        |
| Gujarat            | 1         | -        | 11         | 1         | 1         | -        | 7         | -        |
| Haryana            | 1         | -        | 6          | -         | 3         | 1        | 6         | 1        |
| Jammu & Kashmir    | -         | -        | 1          | -         | -         | -        | -         | -        |
| Jharkhand          | 2         | -        | 8          | -         | -         | -        | 1         | -        |
| Karnataka          | 5         | -        | 19         | 2         | 11        | 1        | 8         | -        |
| Kerala             | -         | -        | 2          | -         | -         | -        | 2         | -        |
| Madhya Pradesh     | 2         | -        | 3          | 1         | 2         | -        | 3         | -        |
| Maharashtra        | 5         | 1        | 49         | 7         | 15        | 2        | 19        | 3        |
| Manipur            | -         | -        | 1          | -         | -         | -        | -         | -        |
| Meghalaya          | 3         | 1        | 2          | 1         | -         | -        | -         | -        |
| Odisha             | 9         | 2        | 18         | 5         | 1         | -        | 6         | 2        |
| Puducherry         | -         | -        | -          | -         | 1         | -        | -         | -        |
| Punjab             | -         | -        | 4          | -         | -         | -        | -         | -        |
| Rajasthan          | -         | -        | 7          | -         | 3         | -        | 4         | -        |
| Tamil Nadu         | 18        | -        | 20         | 2         | 5         | 1        | 8         | -        |
| Telangana          | 3         | -        | 11         | 1         | 3         | 1        | 3         | 1        |
| Tripura            | -         | -        | -          | -         | 2         | -        | 1         | -        |
| Uttar Pradesh      | 1         | 1        | 5          | -         | 2         | -        | 2         | -        |
| Uttarakhand        | -         | -        | 4          | -         | -         | -        | 1         | 1        |
| West Bengal        | 1         | -        | 6          | -         | 4         | -        | 3         | -        |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>56</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>201</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>56</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>81</b> | <b>8</b> |

**Annexure-II**

**Annexure-II referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 548 answered on 22.07.2026 regarding 'S&T-PRISM'**

**Table: State and year-wise details of the financial assistance sanctioned amount released/disbursed to the selected Start-ups and MSMEs.**

**(in ₹ Lakhs)**

| <b>State/UT</b>    | <b>Total Sanctioned Grant</b> | <b>Amount Released/disbursed</b> |                |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                    |                               | <b>2024</b>                      | <b>2025</b>    | <b>2026</b>   |
| Maharashtra        | 1527.4                        | 207.66                           | 265.728        | 39.80         |
| Odisha             | 1185.92                       | 257.3                            | 151.92         | 583.14        |
| Uttar Pradesh      | 116.52                        | 46.6                             | 46.6           | -             |
| Meghalaya          | 120                           | 48                               | 48             | -             |
| Tamil Nadu         | 347.6                         | 15                               | 120.74         | 39.12         |
| Karnataka          | 607.25                        | 80                               | 242.9          | 30            |
| New Delhi          | 296                           | 118.4                            | 62.4           | -             |
| Telangana          | 348.45                        | -                                | 139.38         | 29.69         |
| Gujarat            | 120                           | -                                | 72             | 24            |
| Harayana           | 269                           | -                                | 43.6           | -             |
| Madhya Pradesh     | 99.75                         | -                                | 59.85          | 19.95         |
| Uttarakhand        | 175                           | -                                | -              | -             |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>5212.89</b>                | <b>689.58</b>                    | <b>1358.50</b> | <b>334.48</b> |

**Annexure-III referred to in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 548 answered on 22.07.2026 regarding 'S&T-PRISM'**

**Table: Details of locations, implementing agencies and current status of the projects for processing and recovery of rare earth materials:**

| S.No | Project Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Details of Facilities                                                                                                                                                                                        | Implementing agency and Location                              | Current Status            |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1    | Establishment of Pilot Plant (TRL-7) for Extraction of Neodymium - Praseodymium (Nd-Pr) metal from Neodymium -Praseodymium oxide (Nd-Pr oxide) through Calcio-thermic reduction route for NdFeB Base Permanent Magnet Application | Production of NdPr metal ( $\geq 99.8\%$ pure) through calciothermic / metallothermic reduction route at an installed capacity of 36 Tons per Year                                                           | Ashvini Rare Earth Pvt Ltd, Pune, Maharashtra                 | Completed                 |
| 2    | SCIN: A process to extract scandium oxide from red mud                                                                                                                                                                            | Pilot production facility for processing 2 tons red mud per day                                                                                                                                              | Innocule Materials and Additives Pvt Ltd, Bhubaneswar, Odisha | Completed                 |
| 3    | NdPr Metal Production through Molten Salt Electrolysis Technology                                                                                                                                                                 | Production of NdPr metal ( $\geq 99.9\%$ pure) through molten salt electrolysis route at an installed capacity of producing 2Kgs per batch of NdPr metal                                                     | PG Tech Pvt Ltd, Indore, Madhya Pradesh                       | Progress as per milestone |
| 4    | Solvent Extractants and Ion-Exchange Resin chemicals for Strategic and Rare Earth Metal Recovery                                                                                                                                  | Scalable process / facility to manufacture solvent extractants and ion exchange resins based on proprietary processes for recovery of rare earth minerals through solvent extraction and ion exchange routes | PolyProtic Chemicals Pvt Ltd, Vadodara, Gujarat               | Progress as per milestone |

