

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3779
ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024

LITHIUM AND TITANIUM RESOURCES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

3779. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Salal-Haimana area of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district has significant Lithium and Titanium resources;

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken for exploration level to reach G1 or at least to G2 level and to put the Salal-Haimana area for auction and starting commercial mining thereat; and

(c) the details of the efforts made to reduce dependence on imports of lithium metal?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of Ministry of Mines, has carried out preliminary exploration (G3 stage) in Salal-Haimna block of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, primarily for bauxite, where additional resources of lithium and titanium were also established. GSI has submitted mineral samples to Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur and Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology, Bhubaneswar for carrying out beneficiation study. Additionally, two preliminary exploration (G3 stage) projects on lithium in Salal East and Panasa areas of Reasi district have been taken up by GSI in current field season 2024-25.

(c): The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 has been amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023 which has introduced major reforms in mining sector viz. inserting 24 critical & strategic minerals, including lithium, in Part D of the First Schedule to the MMDR Act, 1957 and empowering Central Government to exclusively auction mineral concessions for these critical minerals. The Ministry of Mines has successfully auctioned Katghora block, Chhattisgarh as Composite Licence for Lithium and Rare Earth Elements (REE). Furthermore, a joint venture company named Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) has also been set up by the government for securing critical mineral assets abroad. KABIL has acquired an area of 15703 Ha in the Catamarca province of Argentina for exploration and mining of Lithium.
