GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4489
ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025

MINERALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

4489. SHRI KRISHNA PRASAD TENNETI:
SHRI APPALANAIDU KALISETTI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and types of major minerals discovered across the country during the last ten years, mineral, State-wise particularly for Andhra Pradesh;
(b) the details of the quantity of these major minerals mined annually during the last ten years, mineral and State and district-wise particularly for Andhra Pradesh;
(c) whether the Government proposes to undertake new exploration projects using drones, aerial surveys or AI tools to map untapped or deep-seated mineral reserves and if so, the details thereof especially in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote sustainable mining practices and value addition, such as mine reclamation, environmental safeguards and community development and if so, the details thereof including the measures implemented so far across the country especially in Andhra Pradesh; and
(e) the initiatives being taken to support domestic value addition in mining including mineral processing units and investment incentives, especially for critical and strategic minerals?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): While the data on exploration by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of the Ministry of Mines, for the entire country is available on National Geoscience Data Repository (https://geodataindia.gov.in), 159 mineral exploration projects from field season 2015-16 to 2024-25, targeting minerals such as gold, basemetals, diamonds, rare earth elements (REE), limestone, iron, copper etc. have been taken up in Andhra Pradesh. Further, since inception National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) has also sanctioned 16 mineral exploration projects in Andhra Pradesh and has augmented mineral resources for coal and limestone. The details of resources augmented for various mineral commodities in Andhra Pradesh during the last ten years are given in **Annexure-I.**

The mineral-wise details of production in Andhra Pradesh during the last ten years is given in **Annexure-II.**

(c): GSI has adopted advanced technology tools such as drone-based mineral mapping, and Mineral Prospectivity Mapping (MPM) programs using geostatistical and Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning modelling to efficiently target remote and geologically complex regions. From field season 2024-25 to 2025-26, GSI has taken up 12 MPM projects across the country including two MPM projects in Andhra Pradesh. In collaboration with ISRO's Space Applications Centre, GSI is using satellite-based remote sensing and AI-driven analysis. GSI has launched its flagship project "National Aero-Geophysical Mapping Programme (NAGMP)" to acquire uniform aero-geophysical data through outsourcing using National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) fund across country including Andhra Pradesh. Under the aegis of Project Uncover, GSI has also conducted Magneto-Telluric (MT) surveys in collaboration with CSIR-NGRI in western and eastern parts of the Dharwar Craton covering Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

(d): The introduction of the Star Rating of Mines under Sustainable Development Framework (SDF) ensures environmentally and socially responsible mining practices. It assesses environmental management, social responsibility, scientific mining, and post-closure land use. Mines achieving higher ratings, especially 5-star, are recognized for excellence and encouraged to adopt best practices. This system fosters transparency, boosts community trust, and promotes responsible mining. Environmental and social impact assessments are mandated to identify and mitigate adverse effects on local populations. Further, the lessee is required to prepare and implement Progressive and Final Mine Closure Plans (PMCP & FMCP). The PMCP outlines ongoing reclamation and environmental management measures during the active life of a mine to ensure ecological balance and compliance. The FMCP contains the post-mining land restoration strategy, including afforestation, infrastructure removal, and socio-economic rehabilitation, ensuring sustainable closure aligned with regulatory norms.

The District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) established under the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015, channels a portion of mining revenues into local development projects focusing on health, education, drinking water, and livelihood generation. The Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) further guides DMF spending to ensure welfare of mining-affected populations.

(e): The MMDR Amendment Act, 2023 has empowered the Central Government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite licence for 24 critical minerals listed in the new Part-D of the First Schedule to the said Act which includes the minerals of the "rare earths" group not containing Uranium and Thorium. Till date, 34 critical and strategic mineral blocks have been successfully auctioned by the Central Government.

The Government has also launched National Critical Mineral Mission 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 recovery from end-of-

life products. The Ministry of Mines under its S&T programme also funds Research and Development projects in critical and strategic minerals processing.

In order to support the critical minerals processing in the country, the Government has eliminated customs duties for most of the critical minerals and reduced Basic Customs Duties (BCD) on two minerals in the Union budget 2024-25. During 2025-26 Union Budget, the Government has exempted cobalt powder and waste, the scrap of lithium-ion battery and scrap of some critical minerals.

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Annexure-I

Details of resources augmented for various minerals in Andhra Pradesh during the last ten years

S.No.	Commodity	Resource (in Million Tonne)
1.	Limestone	5623.53
2.	Graphite ore	0.43
3.	Iron ore	15.30
4.	Manganese ore	5.90
5.	Cobalt ore	0.69
6.	Lead & Zinc ore	1.55
7.	Cadmium ore	0.70
8.	Silver ore	0.82
9.	Copper ore	1.89
10.	Tungsten ore	0.08
11.	Coal	2225.56

Annexure-II

Mineral-wise details of production in Andhra Pradesh during the last ten years

Mineral	Unit	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23(P)	2023-24(P)	2024-25(P)
Apatite	tonne	110	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Gold Ore	tonne						0	856	31028	33687	51715
Gold Primary	kg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.012	1.637	1.187
Iron Ore	000 tonne	493	485	674	654	825	349	319	185	125	41
Limestone	000 tonne	32579	35515	38889	48295	42532	41148	50278	53526	60725	59228
Manganese Ore	tonne	186632	232257	172174	293679	330530	250255	204002	213790	351412	428798
Sand Others	tonne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Sillimanite	tonne	42409	37109	53749	31243	0	0	0			
Vermiculite	tonne	21890	7225	4790	2286	2190	750	2370	2303	1127	2736
Garnet (abrasive)	tonne	55583	51243	111513	72521	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: (P) - Data is Provisional