

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.623
ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025

RARE EARTH AND CRITICAL MINERALS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

623. SHRI P V MIDHUN REDDY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified rare earth and critical mineral deposits in coastal and tribal regions of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the details of exploration undertaken;
- (c) whether Private or PSUs have been granted mining rights, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government is planning to establish a processing facility in the State, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Yes. Since 2022-23, the Geological Survey of India, an attached office of the Ministry of Mines, has taken up 38 mineral exploration projects for critical mineral commodities such as molybdenum, graphite, cobalt, lithium, Phosphorite etc. in different districts of Andhra Pradesh including Vizianagaram, Nellore, Srikakulam, West Godavari etc. and has augmented resources for critical minerals such as graphite, tungsten, cobalt and cadmium in East Godavari, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Anantapur, Vizianagaram and YSR (Kadapa) districts. The details are given at Annexure.

Further, the National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT) has approved 17 mineral exploration projects in Andhra Pradesh which includes 03 projects of critical minerals located in YSR (Kadapa), Prakasam, and Alluri Sitharama Raju districts.

(c): The Ministry of Mines has granted previous approval of Central Government under Section 5(1) of the MMDR Act, 1957 for grant of mining lease for Beach Sand Minerals (BSM) in Andhra Pradesh for following blocks.

SI No	Area	Name of PSU/Corporation	Date of approval
1	670.77 Ha and 239.08 Ha. Gara Mandal of Srikakulam District	Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC)	19.05.2023

2	90.15 Ha. Bhimunipatnam Deposit, Visakhapatnam District	APMDC	14.06.2022
---	---	-------	------------

Further, Letter of Intent (LoI) has been issued for grant of composite licence to Hindustan Zinc Limited on 15.05.2025 for Balepalyam Tungsten Block, Anantapur District.

(d): The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up with investors to establish critical mineral processing facilities at Visakhapatnam and Machilipatnam.

Critical mineral resource augmented by GSI for Andhra Pradesh since 2022-23

Sl. No.	District	Field Season	Commodity	Block	UNFC Stage	Resource (in Million Tonne)	Grade
1	Anantapur	2022-23	Tungsten ore	Balepalyam	G3	0.0794	0.09% avg. grade of WO ₃ at 0.03% cut-off
2	Vizianagaram	2022-23	Cobalt ore	Gadabavalasa	G3	0.066	390.33 ppm avg. grade at 200 ppm Co cut-off
3	Vizianagaram	2022-23	Cobalt ore	Gumpamkonda	G2	0.63	Avg. Co grade 360 ppm at 200ppm Co cut-off
4	YSR (Kadapa)	2022-23	Cadmium ore	Jaukulapalle	G2	0.7	151.67 ppm Cd avg. grade at 100 ppm cut-off
5	Alluri Sitharama Raju	2023-24	Graphite ore	Utla	G3	0.625	Avg. grade of 9% FC at 2% cut-off