

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 922
ANSWERED ON 06.12.2021

PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN THE EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY OF MINERAL DEPOSITS

922. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of private investment in the exploration and discovery of mineral deposits, including critical minerals since the launch of the National Mineral Exploration Policy, 2016;
- (b) the names of the blocks identified by GSI in Odisha for the purposes of regional exploration under the policy;
- (c) whether Government has reduced import dependency since the inception of the scheme; and
- (d) if not, the steps Government is taking to reduce such dependency, especially from countries like China?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a): Since the launch of National Mineral Exploration Policy, 2016 there has not been any private investment in the exploration and discovery of mineral deposits including critical minerals.

(b): Since amendment of Mines and Minerals [Development and Regulation] Act 2015, the following 19 resource bearing G2/G3 reports of Geological Survey of India [GSI], on various mineral commodities in parts of Odisha, have been handed over to the State Government of Odisha for consideration in the auctioning process:

Sl. No.	District	Name of the block	Commodity	Stage of exploration
1	Sundergarh	Mendhamaruni block	Iron ore	G2
2	Sundergarh	Kalamang West Block (northern part	Iron ore	G2
3	Kendujhar	Gandhalpada South-East –Part A	Iron ore	G2
4	Kendujhar	Rengalaberha North-East Block	Iron ore	G2
5	Kendujhar	Gandhalpada south-east, Part -B	Iron ore	G2
6	Kendujhar	Rengalaberha north-east extension block	Iron ore	G2
7	Kendujhar	Gandhalpada south block	Iron ore	G2
8	Koraput	Kutinga block	Manganese ore	G2
9	Kendujhar	Nuagan West	Iron ore	G2
10	Sundargarh	Jhumka-Pathiriposhi West Block,	Iron Ore	G2
11	Sundargarh	Kedesala Northeast Block	Iron Ore	G2
12	Sundargarh	Alaghat West Block	Iron Ore	G2
13	Sundargarh	Gandhalpada West Block	Iron Ore	G2
14	Mayurbhanj	Dudhiasol East block	Copper and Nickel	G2
15	Kendujha	Laupada Block	Float Iron Ore	G2
16	Sundargarh	Banjikusum block	Manganese	G2
17	Kendujhar	Kendudihi North Block	Iron ore	G2
18	Sundergarh	Orahuri block	Manganese ore	G2
19	Kendujhar	Kusumdihi block	Manganese ore	G2

Recently, following the MEMC Amendment Rule, 2021 (Amended MMDR Act, 2021) GSI has handed over the following 12 potential Geological Memorandums pertaining to Odisha state government for auctioning as composite licence:

Sl. No.	District	Title of the report	No of Blocks	Commodity
1	Dhenkanal	Reconnaissance survey for chromite around Asurbandha-Mahupal area, Dhenkanal district, Odisha.	1	Chromite
2	Jajpur	Reconnaissance survey for chromite around Mangobindpur-	1	Chromite
3	Jajpur	Dangadi area, Jajpur district, Odisha	1	Chromite
4	Angul	Reconnaissance survey for graphite in Adeswar-Ambasarmunda-Dhauragoth area, Angul district, Odisha.	1	Graphite
5	Rayagada	Preliminary exploration for manganese ore in Anujurhi Block in the central sector of the Eastern Ghats granulite belt, Rayagada district, Odisha.	1	Manganese
6	Rayagada	Preliminary exploration for manganese in Rukunibori - Loharpadar Block in the Central Sector of Eastern Ghats granulite belt, Rayagada district, Odisha	1	Manganese
7	Rayagada	Final report on preliminary exploration for manganese in Talachhelianal area in the Central sector of Eastern Ghats granulite belt, Rayagada district, Odisha	1	Manganese
8	Kalahandi	Reconnoitery survey for Manganese Ore in Boringpadar -Amath block in the Eastern Ghats Granulite Belt, Kalahandi district, Odisha & Reconnaissance survey Manganese in parts of Boringpadar-Amath block in the Eastern Ghats Granulite Belt, Kalahandi district, Odisha	1	Manganese
9	Koraput	Report on the Investigation of a part of Umarkot Iron ore deposit, Koraput District, Orissa	1	Iron ore
10	Mayurbhanj	Reconnoitery survey for iron ore in BIF and titanium-vanadium bearing magnetite ore in Badampahar- SuleipatJashipur area,	2	Iron ore
11	Mayurbhanj	Mayurbhanj district, Odisha.		Iron ore
12	Kalahandi	Reconnaissance survey for manganese in Taprang Block in the Eastern Ghat Mobile Belt, Kalahandi district, Odisha.	1	Manganese

(c) & (d): Availability of minerals in requisite quantity, whether through ore production or by import, ensures supply to the production processes of various metals/ alloys/ compounds, thereby aiding value addition in the metal industry and helping to remove supply rigidity. The quantity and value of India's import of key raw materials from 2015-16 onward are given below:

Quantity in million tonne; Value in US\$ Million

Year	Bauxite (HS 26060010, 26060020)		Copper ores and concentrates (HS 2603)		Iron ores and concentrate (HS 2601, 2502)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2015-16	0.99	79.14	1.89	4037.85	7.10	494.95
2016-17	1.72	99.65	1.14	2725.96	4.61	322.84
2017-18	1.24	99.57	1.49	4319.07	8.71	656.03
2018-19	2.08	175.48	0.82	1753.58	12.81	844.96
2019-20	2.25	152.42	0.82	1225.34	1.25	134.21
2020-21	3.03	184.55	0.42	796.63	0.77	114.84

Import dependence for these key minerals is to be seen in commensuration with the increase in production of metals/ alloys such as Aluminium, Copper and Iron & Steel, which is line with the growing national economy.
