

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1761
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

Rare earth mineral exploration in the North East

1761 Shri S Niranjan Reddy:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether deposits of atomic minerals and rare earth elements have been discovered in the North Eastern States, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is considering mining the same in an ecologically safe manner in the coming future, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the deposits are large enough to reduce rare earth metal imports from China, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has not established any Rare Earth Elements (REE) deposits in the North Eastern States.
- (b) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.
- (c) Mere existence of resources does not translate into metal production as industrial setup is needed to be established for translation of resources into pure Rare Earth Oxides and thereafter to metal post taking up mining activity. While India has existing facilities from mining to separation and refining in pure oxide form, industrial setup for large scale rare-earth metal production is not existing.
