

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.482
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.09.2020

EXPLORATION TO LOCATE LITHIUM ORE IN THE COUNTRY

482. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Atomic Minerals Directorate has located Lithium deposits near Bengaluru recently;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has given priority towards exploration of Lithium deposits in different parts of the country considering huge domestic requirements of Lithium, not only for the present but also for the future, as per the commitment that by 2030 fossil fuel operated vehicles would be phased out; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, including the potential regions where possibility of Lithium deposits exists?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Preliminary surveys on surface and limited subsurface exploration by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a Constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) have shown presence of lithium resources of 1,600 tonnes (inferred category) in the pegmatites of Marlagalla – Allapatna area, Mandya district, Karnataka.
- (c) AMD, as part of its mandate, is carrying out exploration to augment lithium resources in the potential geological domains of the country.

(d) The potential geological domains for exploration to augment lithium resources in the country include:-

1. The Marlagalla - Allapatna area, Mandya district, Karnataka, along the Nagmangla Schist Belt, which exposes mineralised complex pegmatites, is one of the potential geological domains in the country for hosting rare metals mineralisation including lithium.
2. Lithium is also recovered from brines located in playa areas (saline water bodies in arid climate regions) worldwide. Brines of Sambhar & Pachpadra playas, Rajasthan and Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat are some of the potential geographic domains.
3. The major mica belts located in Rajasthan, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, Pegmatite belts in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka are the other potential geological domains of the country.
