

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4784
ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023

RARE EARTH MINERALS

4784. SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to reduce its reliance on China for rare earth minerals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to allow private sector mining of rare earth minerals to diversify its source of production;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): No, Sir. India is not reliant on China for rare earth minerals.

(c) to (e): As per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, private sector is allowed in mining of rare earth minerals not containing uranium and thorium. Further, as per Atomic Mineral Concession Rules, 2016, companies other than Government companies are also allowed in mining of Rare Earth Minerals containing uranium and thorium in cases where the U₃O₈ and ThO₂ content in the ore are less than 60 ppm and 250 ppm respectively.
