

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 238
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2018

ACQUIRING OF OVERSEAS LITHIUM AND COBALT MINES

†238. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI:
SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a shortage of Lithium and Cobalt in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the shortage of Lithium and Cobalt is affecting the production of electric vehicles;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction;
- (d) whether any survey has been conducted to find out Lithium and Cobalt mines in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is considering to acquire overseas Lithium and Cobalt mines and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND COAL (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): India is deficient in Lithium and Cobalt resources as well as there is no reported production of Lithium and Cobalt ore/mineral in the country. It is stated that lithium bearing minerals are mentioned in the Part 'B' of Atomic Minerals of First Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957 and it comes under the purview of Atomic Minerals Directorate of Exploration and Research (AMD), Department of Atomic Energy. As per the National Mineral Inventory published by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) as on 1.04.2015, the reserve/resources of cobalt is given in the Table below and as far as inventory on lithium is concerned, IBM does not maintain the same:

State-wise Reserve/Resources of Cobalt Ore in India as on 01.04.2015
(In million tonnes)

State	Reserve	Remaining Resources	Total Resources
Jharkhand	-	9	9
Nagaland	-	5	5
Orissa	-	30.91	30.91
Total : All India	-	44.91	44.91

(Source: NMI as on 01.04.2015)

(d): Geological Survey of India (GSI) carries out exploration for rare metals which includes Lithium. GSI also carries out exploration of cobalt which occurs in association with Nickel, Copper, Manganese etc. AMD also carries out exploration and prospecting for these minerals.

(e): There is no such proposal to acquire overseas Lithium and Cobalt Mines.
