

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1193**  
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2022

**SHORTAGE OF CRITICAL MINERALS**

1193. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is likely to face acute shortage of critical minerals necessary for developing clean energy applications, infrastructure for its solar mission and for manufacturing high technology products in the near future and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the country is likely to become largely dependent on China in the coming years to source such materials for its manufacturing sector and at present is hundred per cent import dependent for critical minerals and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps/measures taken by the Government to reduce such dependence, to develop mines and unleash untapped potential of the vast mineral resources?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): The metallurgical grade silica required for manufacturing of photovoltaic ingots/ wafers/ cells/ modules has not been reported in any part of the country so far.

(b) & (c): The Government has taken the following steps to enhance domestic solar PV manufacturing:

(i) Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

(ii) Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for High Efficiency Solar PV Modules.

(iii) Imposition of Safeguard Duty on import of solar PV cells & modules.

(iv) Preference to 'Make in India' in Public Procurement in Renewable Energy Sector.

(v) Domestic Content Requirement - under the current schemes of MNRE, it has been mandated to source solar PV cells and modules from domestic sources.

(vi) Imposition of Basic Customs Duty on import of solar PV cells and modules: With effect from 01.04.2022, Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on import of solar PV cells and modules has been imposed by the Government.

(vii) Discontinuation of Concessional Customs Duty Certificates for solar power projects: With effect from 02.02.2021, Government has withdrawn the benefit of concessional customs duty on items imported for initial setting up of solar power projects.

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