

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding need to explore rare earth materials

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I would like to flag the attention of this august House with regard to the Achilles Heel in our strategic planning about poor indigenous production of rare earth materials, which is abysmally low. Sir, the reason is that till now, our Government has been importing more than 90 per cent of rare earth minerals from China.

Sir, the rare earth materials consist of 17 very critical elements and critical minerals which are applied on more than 20 items of our globe, ranging from nuclear power to magnet, electric vehicles etc. So, this kind of dependence upon a hostile country, I think, will not augur well for our nation. This is why I thought it prudent to flag the attention of this House.

Sir, India has six per cent of world's rare earth reserves. But we have failed to explore less than one per cent of global output. The rare earth materials include Lanthanide, Cadmium, Ethereum etc. These rare earth elements are important components because of their wide range of application which I have already stated. It is indispensable for manufacturing everything.

The House must be aware that rare earth materials are indispensable for manufacturing everything, starting from smart phone to wind turbines etc. So, certainly, they have some sort of sustainability paradox attached to it.

It is known as Green Gold. Rare earth materials are recognised as Green Gold. So, I would request this Government that mineral exploration has to be given due priority and the rare earth materials that have strategic importance should not be ignored.

माननीय सभापति: कुमारी गोड्डेति माधवी जी ।

... (व्यवधान)

श्री अधीर रंजन चौधरी: सर, हम इस तरह के नहीं है कि पांच मिनट तक बोलते रहेंगे ।

माननीय सभापति: आप ऐसा नहीं बोला कीजिए । It is not good. आप बहुत सीनियर मैम्बर हैं ।