

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES AND MINERALS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2249  
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2000  
PRODUCTION/CONSUMPTION/EXPORT OF MICA  
SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

**Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the production, consumption and export of mica during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in comparison to the years 1988-89 and 1989-90; and
- (b) whether it has since decreased and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures proposed in this direction?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINES ( SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) Production and exports of mica during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in comparison to the year 1988-89 and 1989-90 are as follows:-

(Unit in tonnes)

YEAR	INCREASE/	YEAR	INCREASE /			
1988-89	1998-99	DECREASE	1989-90	1999-2000	DECREASE	
DURING	DURING					
1998-99	1999-2000					
OVER	OVER	1989-90				
1988-89						

1. Production

Mica 3949 1484 (-)2465 4140 1273 (-)2867

(Crude)

Mica 3440 1067 (-)2373 3557 1039 (-)2518

(Waste & Scrap)

2. Exports

Total: 47794 50245 (+)2451 39253 Not Available

Production estimates of mica are made by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate organisation of the Ministry of Mines on the basis of the information furnished by the reporting mines. However, mica is also recovered from secondary sources and tailings, details of which are not maintained. The statistics on export of mica include export of mica in all forms. Data regarding consumption of mica is not maintained centrally.

(b): The main reasons for declining trend in mica industry are:

- (i) lack of demand for Indian sheet mica in international market due to development of substitutes for mica;
- (ii) mica mines are not economically viable as most of the mines have gone very deep;
- (iii) inadequacy of exploration work for deciphering new mica bearing pegmatites; and
- (iv) availability of large size sheet mica in mines has become scarce.

(c): From time to time, the Government of India have set up Working Groups/ Committees on mica to investigate problems of the mica industry. The Working Group for surveying present and future demands of mica in India and High Power Committee on mica were set up which have submitted reports during 1989 and 1990, respectively. As per these reports, unless the demand for mica in domestic and international markets improve, the scope of revival of mica industry in the country will continue to be rather limited. The viability of

internal consumption as well as export of mica are being improved through development and promotion of value added mica products like silvered mica and capacitors; micronised mica powder; mica paper based on mechanical disintegration process and mica paper based insulating material.

Further Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) officers visit mica mines for guidance and proper mine development. IBM has carried out research and development activities such as:

(i) identifying guides for location of mica shoots;

(ii) model mining plan has been prepared for mica mines which is available for reference of mine owners at regional offices of IBM at Ajmer, Nellore and Ranchi. IBM has also circulated separate guidelines for preparation of Mining Plans for mica mines.