Rare earth magnet curbs: Maruti explores options

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MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA on Thursday said it is exploring multiple solutions to ensure continuity in its manufacturing operations amid the ongoing rare earth magnet shortage issue.

The country's largest carmaker noted that there is a lot of uncertainty due to the situation, but so far, there is no impact on its manufacturing activities. "Regarding the situation on rare earth, as of now there is no disruption in our operation due to this issue. There is a lot of uncertainty and the situation is continuously evolving," the carmarket leader said.

It further said, "We are monitoring the situation and pursuing multiple solutions to ensure continuity in our operations." If and when there is any material impact to the company's business, the automaker will inform all stakeholders in line with regulatory requirements, Maruti Suzuki India stated.

UNCERTAINTY LOOMS

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■ The automobile industry has sought govt support in expediting approvals from the Chinese govt



Domestic auto industry is forced to take steps as the Chinese government has put restrictions since April 4 on the export of rare earth elements and related magnets.

China has mandated special export licences for seven rare earth elements and related magnets. The country controls over 90% of global processing capacity for the magnets, used across sectors including automobiles, home appliances and clean energy.

With no clarity on approvals, the Indian automobile industry is staring at production issues, especially for electric vehicles.

The domestic automobile industry has also sought government support in expediting approvals from the Chinese government for importing rare earth magnets.

The critical materials include samarium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium and lutetium, which are essential in electric motors, braking systems, smartphones and missile technology.

Rare earth magnets are integral to permanent magnet synchronous motors (PMSMs) used in EVs for their high torque, energy efficiency and compact size.