

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1824
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06th MARCH, 2020

SLUMP IN REFINED COPPER PRODUCTION

1824. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a slump in refined copper production in the country and rise in its import and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is a shortage of availability of refined copper in domestic market and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken to meet the demand of copper; and
- (d) the average annual requirement of copper in domestic market?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) Yes Sir. The production of refined copper in the country has declined in 2018-19 vis-à-vis 2017-18. The import of refined copper has increased during the above period. The closure of a smelter since May 2018, which has an annual capacity of 4 lakh tonnes, has affected domestic production of refined copper in the country.
- (b) There has been no report to this effect, so far.
- (c) Important measures taken to meet demand for copper include increase in production of copper ore by Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), Ordinance issued on 10.01.2020 amending the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to facilitate, inter-alia, exploration and mining of deep seated or other minerals, auction completed of two blocks for copper ore (Thaneswasana and Dubarpeth in Maharashtra), intensifying exploration for copper ore and facilitating early operationalization of auctioned blocks.
- (d) The annual consumption of refined copper in recent years has been around 6-7 lakh tonnes.
