

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 82
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023

MOU BETWEEN HCL AND IIT

* 82. DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaborative and sponsored research projects was signed between Hindustan Copper Limited and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (c) the details of production of copper in the country, mine-wise during each of the last three years;
- (d) the details of the future expansion plan, if any, proposed by HCL along with the details of production targets fixed and the extent to which the said MoU is likely to be helpful for HCL in meeting such future expansion plan targets; and
- (e) the details of expenditure likely to be incurred on modernisation and infrastructure development of HCL to meet the said expansion targets?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 82 FOR ANSWER ON 08.02.2023 ASKED BY DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE AND SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU REGARDING MOU BETWEEN HCL AND IIT

(a) & (b): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-ISM), Dhanbad on 03.01.2023 for participating in projects of HCL, to be called as 'identified project' upon mutual discussion with each other on case to case basis. The MoU will focus primarily in the areas of development of sustainable mining plan, preparation of DPR for mine expansion projects, providing technical assistance in various geo-technical, hydro-geological studies & field tests, instrumentation and implementation of new monitoring technologies, formulation of EIA report, suggestions for improving safety in mining operations, reduction in cost of copper ore production and improving productivity of mining operations, training & development of HCL engineers for skill development and knowledge updating in areas of exploration, mining beneficiation etc.

(c): Details of mine-wise production of copper ore in the country during last three financial years are as follows:

(Unit: Million Tonnes)

Unit	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	Ore Production	Ore Production	Ore Production
MCP, MP	2.5	2.2	2.4
KCC, Rajasthan	1.1	0.9	1.1
ICC, Jharkhand	0.3	0.04	0.02
Total	3.9	3.2	3.5

(d): HCL is targeting to achieve capacity expansion of 12.2 million tonne per annum of copper ore production by FY 2028-29. The year-wise plan is as under:

(Unit: Million tonnes)

Company	Envisaged Year-wise Production Plan						
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
HCL	3.93	4.24	4.58	6.39	8.25	10.99	12.20

The MoU is likely to be helpful for HCL to a substantial extent in meeting requirements of HCL in future as under:

- i. IIT-ISM, Dhanbad under the control of Ministry of Education, Government of India, is one of the reputed national level Institutes in the field of mining & earth sciences and their study reports along with recommendations & laboratories test reports are widely accepted by the statutory authorities namely, DGMS, IBM, State Forest Departments, MoEF&CC etc. As a result, various approvals/permissions etc required for mining operations from statutory bodies may become easier & faster.
- ii. IIT-ISM has a long association with HCL and past study /test reports etc. prepared by them have proved useful and have been accepted by the said statutory bodies.
- iii. Awarding 'identified project' to IIT-ISM within the ambit of the terms & conditions stated in the MoU may lead to substantial minimization of the extensive paperwork and time taken towards awarding projects.

(e): The estimated Capex likely to be incurred for achieving the Phase-I capacity expansion of 12.2 Million tones per annum of copper ore is about Rs. 3434 Crore.
