

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2182
ANSWERED ON 04.03.2020

DEMAND OF COPPER

2182. SHRIMATI. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that copper is the third most used industrial metal today in terms of quantities consumed globally;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the expected increase of copper during the next three years;
- (c) whether shutdown of copper plant by Vedanta Group at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu is likely to have wide ranging repercussion on India's copper industry and there would be upward pressure on import of copper; and
- (d) if so, the steps Central Government propose to take for immediate opening of plant to meet the future demand of copper in India?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): As per United States Geological Survey (USGS), copper is the third most used industrial metal in terms of quantities consumed. As per International Copper Study Group, press release dated 23rd October, 2019, the world apparent refined copper usage is expected to increase by about 1.7% in 2020. The Tuticorin smelter of M/s Vedanta Limited in Tamil Nadu, which has annual capacity of 4 lakh tonnes of refined copper, is closed since May 2018 on order of State Govt of Tamil Nadu. Closure of the plant has affected the domestic production of refined copper. Presently, the M/s Vedanta Limited has filed a writ petition before Madras High Court during February 2019 challenging the orders of the State of Tamil Nadu and TNPCB and the matter is sub-judice.
