

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4804
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2021

COPPER PRODUCTION

4804. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:
SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has become net importer of copper for the last three years;
- (b) if so, the reasons for reduction in the production of copper along with the total production of copper during the last five years; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to re-start the closed copper factories at the earliest?

ANSWER

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

(a): The import of refined copper has increased from 44245 tonnes in 2017-18 to 92290 tonnes and 151964 tonnes in 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively, whereas export declined from 378555 tonnes in 2017-18 to 47917 tonnes and 36959 tonnes in 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. Consequently, there was net import of 44373 tonnes and 115005 tonnes in 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively, whereas there was a net export of 334310 tonnes in 2017-18.

(b): Tuticorin smelter in Tamil Nadu, which has annual capacity of 4 lakh tonnes of refined copper, is closed since May 2018. Closure of the plant has affected the domestic production of refined copper. The details of last five years (2015-16 to 2019-20) refined copper production in the Country are as under:

(Quantity in Million Tonnes)

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty
Production	0.79	0.79	0.83	0.45	0.41

(c): During the above period domestic production declined largely due to closure of a smelter since May, 2018, which has annual capacity of 4 lakh tonnes per annum. The matter relating to re-start production from Smelter plant of M/s Sterlite Copper (a Unit of Vedanta Ltd) is sub judice.
