

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2774
ANSWERED ON 15.12.2021

PRODUCTION OF COPPER

2774. SHRI SHIVAKUMAR C. UDASI:
SHRI RANJEET SINGH HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR:
SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has become the net importer of copper during 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 annual import and export of refined copper (in quantity terms) and trade balance from FY 2017-18 onwards are given below:

(Quantity in thousand tonne)

Year	Export	Import	Trade Balance (Export minus Import)
2017-18	380.655	47.215	(+) 333.440
2018-19	49.650	95.713	(-) 46.063
2019-20	47.181	154.901	(-) 107.720
2020-21	125.825	156.724	(-) 30.899

Source: Department of Commerce

As per the table above, though India has been a net importer of refined copper during the last three years, volume of net import has decreased in 2020-21 after it had increased in 2019-20.

(b) & (c): The closure in May 2018 of the Smelter plant at Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu of M/s Sterlite Copper (a Unit of Vedanta Ltd), which has an annual production capacity of four lakh tonne, has affected the domestic production of refined copper. The matter relating to re-start of the Smelter plant of M/s Sterlite Copper is sub judice. The total production of refined copper in the country during the last five years is as under:

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Refined copper production (in thousand tonne)	798.712	842.961	457.245	408.398	363.638
