

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1728**  
ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025

**DOMESTIC COPPER ORE PRODUCTION**

1728 SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total domestic copper ore production in the country during each of the last five years;
- (b) whether there has been any decline in copper ore production in major mining states since 2018-19 and if so, the details thereof along with the names of States mostly affected;
- (c) the key reasons behind the decline in domestic copper ore production during the said period;
- (d) the details of the steps taken up by the Government to boost domestic copper production and reduce the country's dependence on copper imports; and
- (e) the details of technological advancements adopted or promoted to improve the efficiency of copper ore extraction and processing in the country?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND COAL  
(SHRI G KISHAN REDDY)

(a) Total domestic copper ore production in the country during last 5 years:

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Ore Production (Million Tonnes)	3.27	3.57	3.35	3.78	3.47

(b) & (c) In comparison to year 2018-19, there has been a decline in copper ore production due to following reasons:

- Ore production severely affected by Covid-19 pandemic during the years 2019-20 and 2020-21.

- Delays in obtaining statutory clearances for re-opening of Surda, Rakha and Kendadih Mines in Jharkhand.
- Malanjkhand Mines in Madhya Pradesh was under transition from Open Cast to Underground mines during 2022-23.
- Ore Production stopped in Kolihan Mines in Rajasthan due to major breakdown of winder in May, 2024. The production has restarted in April, 2025.

(d) & (e) Following steps have been taken to boost domestic copper production and improve copper ore extraction and processing:

- Various expansion projects of Hindustan Copper Limited, taken up to enhance copper ore production capacity from 4.4 million Tonnes to 12.2 million Tonnes per annum.
- Introduction of Exploration Licence (EL) regime permitting reconnaissance and prospecting operations for critical and deep-seated minerals, including copper.
- Promoting exploration by Notified Private Exploration Agencies with funding from National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust.
- Auction of 7 copper blocks - 4 in Maharashtra, 2 in Rajasthan and 1 in Madhya Pradesh.
- Adoption of State of art 'Paste Fill' technology to increase safety and production of copper ore.

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