

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1920
ANSWERED ON THE 11.02.2026

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF COPPER AND GOLD

1920. DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to increase the domestic production of Copper and Gold in view of the importance of their energy transition, emerging technologies and national security and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether adequate proven reserves of Copper and Gold are available in the public sector to meet domestic demand and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to enhance production capacity;
- (c) whether the production of Copper and Gold has increased during the last five/ten years and if so, the details thereof, year-wise;
- (d) the status of technology upgradation and investments to realise the full potential of copper and gold mining assets;
- (e) whether the Government is considering private sector participation, modern mining technologies or other measures to ensure sustainable growth in domestic production while safeguarding labour welfare and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes disinvestment in PSUs engaged in Copper and Gold mining to increase production and reduce import dependence and if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b): Government of India has taken measures to increase domestic production of various minerals (including Copper and Gold), which include the following:
- Exploration Licence (EL) regime permitting reconnaissance and prospecting operations for critical and deep-seated minerals

- Exploration by Notified Private Exploration Agencies (NPEAs) with funding from National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust (NMEDT)
- 11 copper blocks and 28 gold blocks auctioned, since 2015
- State of art 'Paste Fill' Technology to increase safety and production of copper ore
- "Vision Document on the Copper Sector" outlines strategic roadmap for India's copper industry

(c): Production details of Copper and Gold during the last five years:

Mineral	Unit	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Copper Concentrate	Tonne	108718	115313	112745	125230	105012
Gold Primary	KG	1127	1407	1433	1586	1627

(d) & (e): Mineral blocks are auctioned through transparent process to increase private sector participation. Mining sector utilizes modern technologies including remote sensing, Geographic Information System (GIS), drone technology, satellite-based monitoring and automation to realize potential of mining assets.

The Central Government has enacted Mines Act, 1952 to ensure occupational safety & health of mine workers. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), under Ministry of Labour and Employment has been entrusted to ensure compliance of the provisions for enhancing safety of mine workers.

Sustainable Mining Practices are ensured through Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 2017 and scheme of Star Rating of Mining leases for implementation of Sustainable Development Framework.

(f): Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) under Ministry of Mines is engaged in mining of copper and has taken up various measures to enhance copper ore production significantly. There is no proposal for disinvestment of HCL.
