

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 701
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07th FEBRUARY, 2020

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701. SHRI MAJEED MEMON:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that for the first time in about last two decades , India has become an importer rather than an exporter of refined Copper;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to restore India's pristine position in the matter;
- (c) the major dominant Copper production companies in India and whether all of them are in operation and if not, which plants are closed presently and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the impact of closure on the overall production of copper smelt in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a)to (d): The Indian imports of refined copper have increased from 44,245 tonnes (USD 294.95 million) in 2017-18 to 92,290 tonnes (USD 605.20 million) in 2018-19, whereas Indian exports of refined copper have declined from 378,555 tonnes (USD 2,435.57 million) in 2017-18 to 47,917 tonnes (USD 302.27 million) in 2018-19, which has resulted in net imports of 44,373 tonnes (USD 302.93) in 2018-19 from a position of net exports of 334,310 tonnes (USD 2,140.62 million) in 2017-18. During the current financial year (Apr- Nov 2019), the imports and exports of refined copper stood at 109,324 tonnes (USD 684.02 million) and 18,300 tonnes (USD 106.35 million) respectively.

The major companies engaged in production of refined copper in India are Hindustan Copper Limited, Hindalco and Vedanta Ltd.

The domestic production and exports of refined copper have declined largely due to the closure, since May 2018, of the copper smelter plant of Vedanta Ltd at Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu , which has an annual production capacity of 4 lakh tonnes per annum.

M/s Vedanta Limited has filed a writ petition in February 2019 before the Madras High Court challenging the orders of the State Government of Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), and the matter is sub-judice.
