



Copper exports dips by 70 pc

India's copper exports dropped to about 70% to \$1.1 billion in 2018-19 as a government order, following protest by locals forced Sterlite to shut down its Tuticorin smelter.

According to a news report, with an annual production capacity of 4 lakh tons, the Tuticorin smelter accounted for 40% of the country's copper smelting capacity. The domestic copper demand was calculated to reach 4.8-5 lakh tons by the end of FY19. The data revealed India's exposure in key segments as the closure of one plant has had a detrimental impact on the sector.

The closure has resulted into an increase in shipments of the key metal into the country, with commerce ministry data showing that imports during



the first 10 months of the last financial year were almost equivalent to the value of consignments that came into India during the full 2017-18 financial year. While releasing the annual numbers, Engineering Export Promotion Council said "Recently, Supreme Court refused to allow Vedanta to reopen Sterlite Copper's Tuticorin plant. Therefore, the trend in exports of copper will continue".

Government officials said that exports to China have been adversely impacted by the closure of the plant. In March, shipments to Taiwan (-99%), Peru (-99.7%), Korea Rep (-95%), China (-66.4%), Nepal (-38%) and Thailand (-21%) declined sharply, EEPC said in a statement.

Guinea's new railway line to transport Bauxite

Guinea's new railway line is all set to transport Bauxite by June 2021. The international SMB winning



consortium is building a railway service for Guinea Bauxite industry investing US \$ 3 billion.

The bauxite ore is expected to be processed at an alumina refinery in the Boke's special economic zone. The city is close to the border of Guinea-Bissau. The project also aims to explore new bauxite deposits in the Santou and Houda region that falls 250 km in the north of Conakry. The railway service will transport and process the ore for export. Guinea derives most of its income from the exploitation of mines such as bauxite, making it the 3rd largest producer in the world.

The international SMB-Winning consortium is owned by a Guinean (37%), Singaporean (40%) and Chinese (23%) companies. They will operate the railway for 33 years and then it will be handed over to the state on a public-private partnership.

Malaysian government to revive mining industry



According to the Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry, the government is planning to revive the mining industry due to an increase in the demand of tin. The average price of tin ranges from US \$ 20,000 (RM 82, 730) per ton

The deposits of tin in the country were huge as there has been no large scale mining of the ore for the past 40 years, the ministry said.

The price of tin, which could reach up to \$20,000/ton today, was very "attractive" to the industry players and with deposits amounting to millions of tones; the sector could again become a money spinner and this can bring large profits to the nation.