1) S'il avait été prêt, nous serions partis.

If he had been ready, we would have left.
Had he been ready, we would have left.

2) Il se peut que John ait oublié mais il n'a pas pu mentir, c'est un homme si honnête!

➔ *John may have forgotten, but he can't have lied, he's such an honest man !*

3) <u>Pourquoi fallait-il que l'entreprise licencie autant d'employés?</u>

Why did the firm have to fire / dismiss / lay off so many employees?

4) <u>Ce détenu devait être relâché il y a trois jours mais le juge en a décidé autrement.</u>

This prisoner should have been released
This prisoner was to be / was to have been released three days ago, but the judge ruled against it.

5) Ce n'était pas la peine qu'il achète des chaussures neuves; j'aurais pu lui prêter les miennes.

➔ *He needn't have bought a new pair of shoes, I could have lent him mine.*

6) <u>N'aurait-on pas pu l'empêcher de faire autant d'erreurs en si peu de temps?</u>

Somebody could have prevented him

He could have been prevented

Could he have been prevented

Could he not have been prevented / Couldn't he have been prevented...

To prevent sb FROM doing sth

To make a mistake

To make so MANY mistakes

Such a short time / So little time

➔ *Couldn't he have been prevented from making so many mistakes in such a short time?*