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NERVES OF STEEL

Aruna Sharma, steel secretary

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US tariff hike on steel no immediate threat to Indian firms: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 20

THE STEEL MINISTRY said on Friday that India's steel exports to America are very low and hence the import tariff hike by the US will not pose any immediate threat to the domestic industry.

It said, however, that tariff lines being worked on by the EU are a matter of concern and India has objection to some points under consideration.

"Our capacity last year was 124 million tonne. Our production was 102 million tonne. Our export was 10 million tonne. So these are the figures," steel secretary Aruna Sharma said.

"To US in absolute numbers it is less than 0.9 million tonne. So in the sense under that kind of scenario there is definitely no immediate threat," she told reporters here.

The US has imposed 25% import tariff on steel and 10% on aluminium.

"The team led by commerce ministry is already in dialogue with them (US administration)... As far as steel is concerned we are exporting only two per cent... So it does not make much difference to us immediately," Sharma said.

She was speaking on the sidelines of mining summit organised here by industry body Assocham.

India, she said, will definitely protect its own interest and the commerce ministry will be the front face for the whole thing.

When asked whether other countries could dump their excess production of steel in India in view of US tariff hike, Sharma said: "It hasn't happened now... We are alert and definitely if need be necessary steps will be taken."

Fearing an adverse impact of the US



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tariff hike on steel, the European Union (EU) has initiated a safeguard probe into certain steel products to assess the effect of increased imports following the Trump administration step.

When asked about EU starting safeguard probe into certain steel products, Sharma said, "EU is thinking of tariff lines so that is a concern because we export nearly six per cent to EU... Therefore it is very very important for us."

She added: "So, we are watching. Their safeguards will be appearing in mid-September and let's see how it proceeds. What we are talking today is again a three year principle which we have objected to, of taking an average of three years."

India raises with EU concern over proposed steel safeguard duty

The tariffs will magnify fears of cross-dumping, says Steel Secretary

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 20

India is in talks with the European Union to mitigate the impact of a safeguard duty tariff on steel imports that the EU seeks to impose. The EU's proposed retaliatory duty comes ahead of the US imposing a 25 per cent import duty on steel imports that will be in effect from August 4.

Steel Secretary, Aruna Sharma,



Aruna Sharma, Secretary, Steel Ministry

told presspersons that India is concerned more about the European Union tariffs as India exports nearly 6 per cent of its domestic steel production to Italy. India's steel exports to the US are less

than 1 per cent of its total domestic production. The EU's tariffs will also magnify the fears of steel cross-dumping into India.

Sharma said: "The European Union is thinking on tariff lines. So that is a matter of concern because we export nearly 6 per cent of the domestic production to the EU, especially to Italy. Therefore it is very important for us. So, we are watching. There will be a hearing of their safeguard duty in mid-September and let's see how that proceeds."

Sharma also said India will be red-flagging the investigation period that is being considered for the imposition of duty by the

EU. She said: "The EU is considering a three-year period for assessing the imports."

The Steel Secretary said India has objected to this as 2015 was not a good year internationally for the steel sector. "It is an aberration year so it will not be appropriate to take the figures of three years. We are insisting they take the figures of two years, 2016 and 2017, to work out the exports which were going from India," she said.

"The actual hearing will be on September 14, and then it will come into finality. We have put forward our objections to it because they have proposed a blanket order," she added.



Aruna Sharma

CENTRE MULLS SINGLE WINDOW FOR MINING

New Delhi, July 20: The government has given in-principle approval to provide single clearance for environment and forest to the new lease holders of the 288 mining leases expiring in two years, a top official said.

"Environment ministry has agreed that there will be no need to have a separate environment clearance (EC) and forest clearance (FC) to the new lease holders (of the 288 mines) as it is already allowed in the Coal Ministry.

"They (environment ministry) are in process of issuing necessary orders for it," steel secretary Aruna Sharma said here. She was speaking during India Mining Summit here.

Asserting that she was totally in favour of a single window system, Sharma said the auction of the expiring leases ought to be done in 2019. The leases of the 288 mines expire on March 31, 2020.

The secretary added that ministries of mines, steel and environment are working together in this regard.

"I totally endorse the single window system....We can't afford to slip 2019. It has to be put on the auction floor in 2019," Sharma said.

Of the 288 mining leases, 59 are working leases, which give substantial production of key minerals viz iron ore, manganese, chromite ore etc.

The government had in March fixed the deadline at April 1, 2019 for general exploration of these 288 mining leases.

The development followed amendment to the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017.

The government had said the auction process needs to be initiated well in advance to ensure a seamless transition from the existing to the new lessees so that mineral production is not affected due to expiry of these leases.

Govt mulls single clearance for forest, environment for 288 mining leases

NEW DELHI: The government has given in-principle approval to provide single clearance for environment and forest to the new lease holders of the 288 mining leases expiring in two years, a top official on Friday said.

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Earlier, the Centre had issued a directive which mentioned that all the existing leases have to be brought to an exploration level of G2 (general exploration) or G1 (detailed exploration) in five years' time.

PTI

Mail Today, New Delhi, Saturday, July 21, 2018

QUOTE OF THE DAY

We export only 2% of the steel produced in India to the US. The US hike on steel tariff does not make much difference to us immediately. But EU is thinking of tariff lines and that is a concern because we export nearly 6% to them.



ATIWA CHANDRA, STEEL SECRETARY

खनन पर नीति आयोग के सुझाव पर होगा विचार

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय खान मंत्रालय देश में खानों के आवंटन तथा परिचालन में प्रमुख नीतिगत बदलावों के सिलसिले में नीति आयोग के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) अमिताभ कांत द्वारा सुझाए गए तरीके पर विचार कर रहा है और उन्हें अपनाने को इच्छुक है। केंद्रीय खान मंत्री नरेंद्र सिंह तोमर ने राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में शुक्रवार को एसोचैम के एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान यह बात कही। एसोचैम इंडिया माइनिंग समिट का उद्घाटन करते हुए तोमर ने कहा कि कांत ने जो भी कहा है, वह मूलतः सिद्धांतों पर आधारित है और इस तरह के मुद्दों पर विचार-विमर्श करना नीति आयोग का काम है। उसने पहले ही इस विषय पर संज्ञान लिया है और इस पर काम कर रहा है।



ट्रांसपोर्टों की हड़ताल से 20-25 हजार करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान हो सकता है : एसोचैम

नई दिल्ली | देश भर के ट्रक ऑपरेटर्स और ट्रांसपोर्टों की बेमियादी हड़ताल शुक्रवार से शुरू हो गई। वे डीजल की कीमतों में वृद्धि, टोल टैक्स कम करने समेत अन्य मांगों को लेकर विरोध कर रहे हैं। वहीं, इंडस्ट्री बॉडी एसोचैम ने सरकार से अपील की है कि

हड़ताल को खत्म करने की कोशिश करे, क्योंकि इससे अर्थव्यवस्था को 20 से 25 हजार करोड़ रु. का नुकसान हो सकता है। ट्रक-बस ऑपरेटर्स संगठन (एआईएमटीसी) का दावा है कि हड़ताल में लगभग 90 लाख ट्रक व 50 लाख बस मालिक शामिल हैं।