



FICCI Demands Increase in Steel Import Duty to 25%

FICCI has asked the government to raise the import duty on all steel products to 25 per cent in the upcoming Budget, as demand slows down in China, the world's largest steel producer and consumer with demand slowing down in China, it is dumping steel products in India at cheaper prices, the industry body said. "Import duty on all steel products should be raised to 25 per cent in the Union Budget 2016-17." "As an interim measure, we suggest that the customs duty on all steel products be immediately increased to 15 per cent," the industry body said. It said the tariffs on both Long and Flat Products need to be increased to provide a level playing field to the domestic industry, which has been severely hit due to rising imports.



Customs duty on import of Steel Long Products is 10 per cent and on Flat Products is 12.5 per cent. In Budget for 2015-16, the government had increased the tariff rate on

steel products (Long & Flat Products) to 15 per cent; however the duties are still only 10 per cent on Long Products and 12.5 per cent on Flat Products. During 2015-16, after numerous representations and meetings, Ministry of Finance gradually increased the import duties to their current levels. However, both the interim measure and Union Budget 2016-17 request are under consideration by the Ministry of Finance. During April-August, India imported 4.5 million tonnes steel compared with 2.9 million tonnes during April-August 2014 registering a massive growth of 51 per cent.

The country's steel industry is operating at around 80 per cent capacity utilisation with huge hit from imports from countries like Japan and Korea under FTAs. "FTAs have not benefited domestic steel producers; they rather proved to be detrimental. Thus in future any FTA or CEPA (comprehensive economic partnership agreement) including RCEP (regional comprehensive economic partnership) should exclude steel products from its ambit," FICCI said.

Baosteel Zhanjiang Commissions High-performance Hot Strip Mill



flanged-on edger, seven CVC® plus four-high finishing stands, a laminar strip cooling system and two hydraulically operated coilers.

Thanks to the numerous incorporated Ecoplants technologies, the rolling mill sets a new benchmark in terms of economic efficiency of hot strip production. Ecoplants technologies from SMS group combine ecology and economy, as they reduce energy

consumption and/or increase the yield.

One of the Ecoplants solutions implemented in the roughing mill is the slab sizing press. With the aid of this machine, the slab width can be flexibly adapted to facilitate the co-ordination between the continuous caster and the hot strip mill. Thus the slab sizing press supports hot charging of slabs, contributing to a distinct reduction in energy consumption. Using the slab sizing press offers the additional advantage that the output of the upstream continuous caster can be increased.

Key features of the finishing mill are the newly developed Sieflex®-HT high-performance spindles. The hot strip mill for Baosteel Zhanjiang is the first in China to

have high-performance spindles in all finishing stands. Especially in the first finishing stands such spindles allow to transmit higher rolling torques and rolling forces as are required for the production of high-strength hot strip. Additionally, the new Sieflex®-HT spindles allow for the installation of work rolls with optimized diameters. This also contributes to reduced energy consumption.

Other Ecoplants components incorporated in the mill include the CVC® plus system with integrated work roll bending as well as profile, crown and flatness control, hydraulic differential-tension loopers in the finishing mill and thermal insulation hoods between the roughing and the finishing mill to reduce heat losses of the strip.

For strip cooling, which is a decisive metallurgical tool of the plant, SMS group implemented a concept tailor-made for Baosteel Zhanjiang's product range. The combination of zones coming with

reinforced laminar cooling and standard cooling groups provides for high cooling rates and flexible cooling strategies, allowing a wide product portfolio to be produced in the most efficient way.

Baosteel Zhanjiang Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. has successfully commissioned its new high-performance hot strip mill supplied by SMS group.

The hot strip mill installed at Baosteel's new steelmaking location in Zhanjiang in the south of China has an annual capacity of 5.5 million tons. It has been designed to produce hot strip with final thicknesses between 1.2 and 25.4 millimeters and strip widths from 800 to 2,100 millimeters.

The product portfolio ranges from deep-drawing grades to high-strength construction steels and further to tube/pipe grades. Based on an optimized layout, the new hot strip mill consists of a slab sizing press, one two-high and one four-high reversing roughing stand, each with a