



Ferro Alloy Industry Waiting for Bailout Package



In response to SOS appeal by ferroalloys industry, the State government is contemplating offering certain concessions as part of a bailout package.

Highly-placed sources said that the Cabinet Sub-Committee formed to look into the problems of crisis-hit ferroalloys industry last year has recommended offering a subsidy of Rs.1.50 per unit with some conditions.

A senior official of FACOR, one of the largest ferroalloys units in the State located at Garividi in Vizianagaram district, said though there had been in-principle decision, they were waiting for GO. Representatives of the industry say that the decision will benefit them if no rider is attached to it.

The Andhra Pradesh Ferroalloys Producers' Association had sought a discount of Rs.2.60 per unit as a special offer for at

least five years to help them make a turnaround along with direction to the power distribution company not to harass them with hidden costs like fuel surcharge adjustment.

The ferroalloys industry saw the golden period during 2002-12 when it attracted an investment of about Rs.2, 000 crore in new units and Brownfield projects due to stable power tariff policy.

However, subsequent increase in tariff crippled their function casting a huge financial burden on them.

Of 35 units with a production capacity of eight lakh tonne per annum and power demand of 400 MW, 30 have shutdown their operations due to recurring losses.

The industry has a direct employment of 20,000 and indirect employment of around 50,000 across the State.

India Probe into Circumvention of Duty on Steel Items



India has initiated investigations into circumvention of anti-dumping duties on imports of certain stainless steel products from China, Korea, EU, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand and the US. The probe has been initiated by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD), under the Commerce Ministry, on a complaint by Jindal Stainless Ltd.

The DGAD has found sufficient prima facie evidence of circumvention of anti-dumping duties leviable on cold-rolled flat products of stainless steel by these countries.

"The authority hereby initiates an investigation into the alleged circumvention of the anti-dumping duties to determine the existence, degree and effect of the alleged circumvention and to examine the need to extend the existing anti-dumping duty to the circumventing products," a ministry notification said.

It is alleged that the existing anti-dumping measures imposed in 2010, and amended later, are being circumvented. "It is decided that sufficient evidence exists to justify the initiation of an investigation.

"The authority, upon determination that circumvention of anti-dumping duty exists, may recommend extension of anti dumping duty to imports of articles found to be circumventing an existing anti dumping duty may apply retrospectively from the date of initiation of the investigation," it added.

The period of investigation was from July 2014 to September 2015. In December last year, India had imposed anti-dumping duty of up to 57.39 per cent on import of the products from China, Korea, the US and EU for five years to save the domestic industry from cheap shipments.

Recently, the government had imposed a minimum import price (MIP) on 173 steel products ranging between \$341 to \$752 per tonne.

ISI Marking Mandatory for 15 More Steel Products



In a bid to enhance quality control in the steel industry, the Centre has made ISI mark mandatory for 15 more steel and steel products, including mild steel wire rods, cold reduced low carbon and hot rolled carbon sheets and strips. The order will come into force from March 18, 2016.

The ministry of steel has notified additional 15 steel and steel products to conform to the relevant Indian standards and

for compulsory certification by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) through steel and steel products quality control order 2015.

"Any manufacture or store for sale, sale or distribution of steel and steel products listed in the quality control order, which do not conform to the specified standards and do not bear mark of the BIS, is prohibited," said BIS spokesperson.

With this notification, there will now be 35 steel and steel products, including mild steel wire rods, cold reduced low carbon and hot rolled carbon sheets and strips under compulsory certification by BIS.

According to new notification, all domestic as well as foreign manufacturers of steel and steel products are being covered under the quality control order. Moreover, they will have to make an application to the BIS for obtaining the license and to maintain it thereafter for use of the mark of BIS.