



## SME Engineering Exporters Protest Duty on Steel Imports

Government's proposal to impose 20 per cent safeguard duty on certain steel imports is a "death knell" for small and medium exporters, engineering exporters body EEPC said.

The Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) has cautioned the government about these measures spelling a death knells for millions of SME exporters who will have to bear the high cost of basic raw material while the benefit of the same would be reaped by the big corporates.



The body in a statement said that cost of SME players will rise by at least 15 per cent and this would make their products uncompetitive globally.

The Directorate General (DG) of

Safeguards has suggested a provisional 20 per cent safeguard duty for a period of 200 days on the common variety of hot rolled coil steel.

Recommendations of the DGS to impose safeguard duty should be rejected, it said, adding or else, lakhs of jobs in the SMEs would be sacrificed for the sake of helping the large and powerful steel manufacturers".

Imports of flat-rolled products of iron and steel have fallen from \$ 1.8 billion in 2012-13 to \$ 1.4 billion in 2014-15, it added.

## "Planned Development of Mineral Sector in India is Need of the Hour" - Tomar



Shri Narendra Singh Tomar stated that planned development of Mineral Sector in India is need of the hour, while addressing the delegates in Assocham India Mining Summit, held at New Delhi. He further added, "Present government is working in a planned manner to this end and several path-breaking changes have been made in the mining sector in last one year. If we look at the statistics of mineral sector in India, we will realize the immense potential in this area. Be it from the view of employment generation or contribution to GDP, mining is an important sector. Prime Minister Khanij Kshetr Kalyan Yojna and District Mineral Foundation will go a long way in providing a permanent, sustainable solution to problems of tribals and poor people living in mine and forest areas."

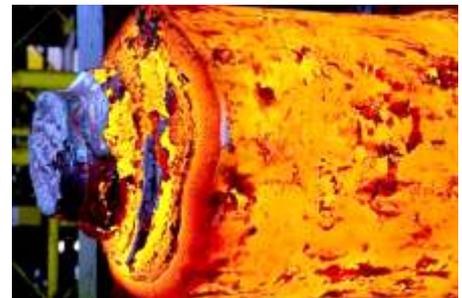
Shri Tomar explained in details how the moribund mining sector has been revived and put back on growth path as a result of initiatives taken since May 2014. This would help mineral-based industries and give a boost to manufacturing and make in India. The Minister said, "Iron ore production in the

country was 8 million tonnes in September 2014, which went up to 12.5 million tonnes in March 2015, as a result of various initiatives. MMDR 2015 has been widely acclaimed as a revolutionary decision and not just an ordinary reform.

One big shortcoming in our mining sector has been very small scale of exploration. A country with similar geological profile as ours, Australia has accomplished 100 % regional exploration, whereas India has done only 10 %, and detailed exploration has been done only of around 10 % of the latter. To overcome this, we have established National Mineral Exploration Trust.

In addition to GSI and MECL, other public sector undertakings have been authorized by notification, to carry out exploration. For holistic development of any sector, all stakeholders need to work together. Same holds true for mining sector. To achieve our common goal of sustainable and inclusive growth, government, planners, policymakers, mining industry, technology suppliers, service providers and communities will have to work together."

## IISCO Steel Plant Crosses Production Figure



The new blast furnace at IISCO Steel Plant, Burnpur crossed the magical figure of producing one million tonne of hot metal on, in less than a year of its commissioning.

Christened "Kalyani", the country's largest blast furnace was "blown in on November 30 last year. Built by POSCO (Engineering and Construction), South Korea and NCC Ltd, India, the furnace has a useful volume of 4160 cubic meters, and can produce about 8,000 tonne of hot metal per day.

With an enhanced campaign life of 20 years, the blast furnace is equipped with systems such as pulverized coal injection, cast house fume extraction, cast house slag granulation, high top pressure operation coupled with top pressure recovery turbine, twin material bin bell-less top, waste heat recovery and conveyor belt charging system. It incorporates level-II automation and has twin flat cast house with four tap holes.

The environment-friendly furnace ensures minimum emissions and recovers waste energy to the fullest and also has a closed-loop cooling system resulting in almost zero water discharge.