IMPACT OF DEVALUATION OF RUPEE ON TRADERS

2426(H). SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traders have to pay excess amount on account of continuous devaluation of Indian Rupee in comparison to dollar for imported goods resulting in adverse effect on industry and trade;

(b) the excess amount which has to be paid for imported goods on account of devaluation of Indian Rupee during the last three years and whether the Indian consumers have had to pay excess amount for goods resulting in inflation; and

(c) the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): Imports and exports are affected by a number of factors like growth in world trade, growth in demand for our exports, domestic need for imports, government policies, etc. This has to be viewed in relation to issues like devaluation by competitors, extent of valuation of domestic currency, domestic inflation and steps taken to promote exports etc.

Steps taken by DOC to promote exports:

- Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 and Mid-term review notified in December 2017.
- Interest Equalization scheme on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit which helped in accessing credit at reduced rates was introduced.
- A new logistic division was created in DOC to focus on improving logistics efficiency and enhancing growth.
- A new scheme namely TIES was launched which provided matching assistance for setting up and up-gradation of infrastructure projects with overwhelming export linkages: Border Haats, Land customs stations, quality testing, certification labs and cold chains etc.
- Facilitating Transparency through Ease of Doing Business and IT initiatives
  - DGFT and SEZ online integrated with customs ICEGATE.
  - Import Export Code (IEC) integrated with PAN and MoU signed with GSTN for complete registration.
  - State Governments provided access to DGCI&S export data in real time.
India’s overall imports (merchandise and services) are higher than overall exports. The details of India’s overall exports, imports and trade deficit for last three years are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Export</th>
<th>Import</th>
<th>Trade deficit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>417.43</td>
<td>466.73</td>
<td>-49.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>436.53</td>
<td>479.83</td>
<td>-43.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>478.14</td>
<td>570.79</td>
<td>-92.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata and RBI

The annual change in the value of Rupee against US$ during 2015-16 to 2017-18 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>USD/INR Closing Rate</th>
<th>(+) Appreciation/ (-) Depreciation of INR on year-on-year basis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2015</td>
<td>62.49</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2016</td>
<td>66.25</td>
<td>(-) 6.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2017</td>
<td>64.85</td>
<td>(+) 2.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2018</td>
<td>65.18</td>
<td>(-) 0.51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata and RBI

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RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2429
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08th AUGUST, 2018

QUALITY OF FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORTED FROM INDIA

2429. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of food products from India are facing rejection in the export market due to their not being upto the quality standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has devised any strategy to tackle this problem and improve the quality of the products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a & b) All importing countries food products have concerns relating to human, animal and plant health and hygiene and safety of food consumed by its citizens. As a measure of protection, importing countries often resort to rejections of individual consignments for non-compliance with their prescribed norms/safety standards/rules/regulations. The rejections can be due to various reasons viz. presence of pests, presence of pesticide or other chemical residues, improper packaging or labelling, poor quality etc. The data on rejections, specifically due to non-adherence to quality standards, is not available.

(c & d) Yes, Sir. Following steps have been taken to reduce the number of rejections and improve the quality of food products to be exported:

i. The Government has launched three digital initiatives for ease of export and ensuring quality of food exports details are as under:

   ➢ Safe food export traceability portal: The portal provides comprehensive linkages pertaining to primary producers, suppliers, establishments, samplers and laboratories till export certification. The portal provides transparent official control mechanism and has provision for dynamic interface with importing countries.

   ➢ One Lab One Assessment: This portal is a step forward towards simplification of procedures, removing multiple assessments by different authorities.

   ➢ Monitoring of Export Alerts: The portal provides a common online platform for all regulatory authorities to collaborate and repot the corrective action taken on export alerts.
ii. The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has introduced web-based traceability systems for various products viz. HORTINET, PEANUT.NET, TRACENET, MEAT.NET, BASMATI.NET etc.

iii. APEDA and other commodity boards provide assistance under their respective schemes for improving overall quality of India’s food exports.

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INTRODUCTION OF MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

2430. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any new and specific policy initiative after June, 2014 to achieve the objectives of the Ministry, if so, the details of these initiatives and what is the overall impact of these initiatives; and

(b) whether Government has introduced any major administrative reforms specifically to achieve the objectives of the Ministry in its functioning after May, 2014, if so, the details thereof and what has been their impact?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(Shri C. R. CHAUDHARY)

In the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the following Administrative Reforms initiatives have been implemented:

(a) to (b): (i) **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**:- Government on 12.04.2017 decided to set up Government e-Marketplace (GeM) as a National Public Procurement Portal as Section 8 Company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 for facilitating procurement of Goods & Services required by Central & State Government organizations. The procurement of Goods & Services by Ministries or Departments is mandatory for Goods or services available on GeM. GeM is a totally online procurement portal which leverages technology to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the Government users to achieve the best value for their money.

(ii) **Council for Trade Development and Promotion**: Council for Trade Development and Promotion was notified (in July 2015) under the chairpersonship of the Union Commerce and Industry Minister, in which the Trade & Commerce Ministers of all the states are members along with the Secretaries of the Central Ministries/Departments dealing with infrastructure and finance and the apex industry associations. The main objective of council is to ensure a continuous dialogue with State Governments and UTs on measures for providing an International trade enabling environment in the State and to create a framework for making the States active partners in boosting India’s trade.

(iii) **Creation of Logistics Division**: The Transaction of Business Rules have been amended in July, 2017 and Department of Commerce has been mandated for Integrated development of logistic sector. As a first step, infrastructure status has been granted to Logistics activities like warehousing, cold chains etc. This would facilitate access to long term credit. A new Division...
namely ‘Logistics Division’ has been created under Department of Commerce to look into various activities of Logistics Sector in the Country.

(iv) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):- Government of India in the last 4 years has carried out a number of unprecedented FDI policy reforms to allow easy flow of foreign investment in the country. 100 reforms covering 25 sectors of the economy have been undertaken. Further the foreign investment approvals have been smoothly transitioned into the new regime after the abolition of FIPB due to clear detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the Government.

Measures taken by the Government on FDI policy liberalization coupled with improvement in ease of doing business climate has resulted in unprecedented growth of FDI inflows. FDI inflows in India stood at US $ 36.05 billion in 2013-2014 and have consistently increased since then. In 2014-2015, it increased to US $ 45.15 billion and further to US $ 55.56 billion in 2015-2016 and to US $ 60.22 billion in 2016-2017 and fiscal year 2017-2018 registered a record inflow of US $ 61.96 billion, a new all-time high.

As per World Investment Report 2018 of UNCTAD, India continues to be placed among the top 10 FDI recipient countries in the world. Analysis of data in respect of top ten FDI destinations shows that between 2013 and 2017 India held second position in terms of growth rate i.e. 42 %, next only to France which has grown by 45%.

(v) Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP):- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the World Bank conducts an annual reform exercise for all States/UTs under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP). The aim of this exercise is to improve delivery of various Government regulatory functions and services in an efficient, effective and transparent manner.

The reform plan has expanded from 285 to 372 action points in 2015 and 2017 respectively. States/UTs have conducted reforms to ease their regulations and systems in areas such as labour, environmental clearances, single window system, construction permits, contract enforcement, registering property and inspections. States/UTs have also enacted Public Service Delivery Guarantee Act to enforce the timelines on registrations and approvals.

No. of reforms in 2017 (7758) were 3 times more than the reforms done in 2015 (2532). In 2015, no State had an implementation score of 70 per cent whereas in 2017-18 States have an implementation score of more than 80 per cent. The average implementation score has increased to 60.21 per cent.

India has leapt 30 positions over its rank of 130 in World Bank’s Doing Business Report, 2017. The DB Report is an assessment of 190 economies and covers 10 indicators which span the lifecycle of a business. India has improved its rank in 6 out of 10 indicators and has moved closer to international best practices (Distance to Frontier score). This edition of the report acknowledges India as a top improver compared to last year’s report, the highest jump in rank of any country in the DB Report, 2018. India is the only country in South Asia and BRICS economies to feature among most improved economies of the DB Report last year.

(vi) Public Procurement:- To boost efforts to promote Make in India, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion issued Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order on 15th June, 2017 asking all Ministries and Departments, Government Companies and Autonomous Bodies, whether it is procurement of goods, services or works including turnkey works to provide an opportunity to the local bidders meeting minimum local content requirement to get half of the order.

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RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2431
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08th AUGUST, 2018

HEAVY TARIFFS ON IMPORTS BY US

2431. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent steel imports and aluminium shipments from India were affected due to recent imposition of heavy tariffs by the US Government on imported steel and aluminium, the details thereof;
(b) whether India has also raised tariff on certain imported goods from the US, the details thereof;
(c) whether India has raised before WTO the unilateral action of the US administration in enhancing such import duties, the details thereof;
(d) whether Government considers that the emerging scenario may lead to global trade war; and
(e) if so, what are the preventive measures contemplated by Government?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a)

United States (US) has imposed global tariff of 25% and 10% on certain steel and aluminium products, respectively, under Section 232 of US Trade Expansion Act of 1962 which came into effect from 23.3.2018. The provisional data of exports for the 1st Quarter of 2018-19, as compared to 1st quarter of 2017-18, indicates that the exports to US have declined from US$ 198 million to US$ 115 million in case of affected tariff lines in Steel and increased from US$ 107 million to US$ 143 million in respect of affected tariff lines in aluminium.

(b) to (e)

India has raised the unilateral action of the United States before the relevant World Trade Organisation (WTO) Committees, as well as initiated consultations with the United States, under the dispute settlement mechanism at the WTO. Further, India has also imposed retaliatory duties on 29 goods originating from the United States vide Customs Notification Nos. 48/2018 and 49/2018 dated 20.06.2018 in accordance with the relevant provisions of WTO Safeguard Agreement. The US specific retaliatory duties shall enter into effect from 18.09.2018 as per Customs Notification No. 56/2018 dated 03.08.2018. India, being a member of WTO, believes in fair and rule based multilateral trading system. The specific trade protectionist measures of countries are tackled under the WTO’s established dispute settlement mechanism.

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RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2432
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08th AUGUST, 2018

TASK FORCE TO FINALISE POLICY ON E-COMMERCE

2432. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set up a Task Force to finalise the contours of
the policy on the fast growing e-commerce sector;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also a fact that the decision to set up a Task Force was taken during the first meeting
of the think tank on framework for National Policy on e-commerce; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a), (b), (c) and (d): In the back drop of discussions on e-Commerce in WTO & MC-11 in Buenos Aires, the Department of Commerce initiated an exercise and established a Think Tank on “Framework for National Policy on E-commerce” and a Task Force under it and has deliberated on the challenges confronting India in the arena of the electronic commerce (e-commerce). Some of the issues that were discussed by the think tank included aspects of e-commerce like physical and digital infrastructure, the regulatory regime, taxation policy, data flows, server location, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), technology flows, skill development and trade-related aspects.

The first meeting of the Think Tank was held on 24.04.2018; meeting of the subgroups was held during 20th - 22nd June, 2018 and the first meeting of the Task Force was held on 6th July, 2018; the final meeting of the Think Tank was held on 30.07.2018. The meetings saw participation by senior officers of various ministries/ departments of the Government of India involved in different aspects of e-commerce, high level representatives from the industry bodies, e-commerce companies, telecommunication companies and IT companies, NGOs and independent experts.

*****
QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTION ON IMPORT OF PULSES

2433. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agriculture Commissioner has predicted domestic pulse production of 24 million tonnes in 2018-19 that is slightly higher than last year;
(b) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Foreign Trade has imposed a quantitative restriction on import of pulses except from Mozambique;
(c) whether such import of pulses impact the domestic market and the farmers; and
(d) if so, the relief measures that Government proposes to provide to the domestic farmers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) : Yes.

(b): The Government has restricted the import of pulses including pigeon peas (toor), Moong & Urad. The annual quota for these items has been fixed at 2 lakh MT of Toor, 1.5 Lakh MT of Urad & 1.5 Lakh MT of Moong. The import of peas also has been restricted till 30th September, 2018 with a quota of 1 lakh MT. This restriction is not applicable for import under Government’s bilateral MOU with Mozambique for 1.5 lakh MT of pulses for the year 2018-19.

(c) & (d): The above were notified based on decisions taken in the Inter-Ministerial Committee comprising of, inter alia, Secretaries of Dept of Food and Public Distribution, Dept. Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Dept of Consumer Affairs and Dept of Commerce. Compared to total target production of 24 million MT, the total import of pulses under quota is only 6.5 lakh MT i.e., 2.7% of total production.

****
RECORD OF E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS

2434. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a recent RTI, Government has no record of number of e-commerce platforms;
(b) if so, whether Government is planning to maintain a record;
(c) if not, how are grievances being handled at present; and
(d) whether the Ministry has received any complaint from small e-commerce sellers regarding payments, discrimination and unjust blacklisting by e-commerce market places, if so, what action has been taken?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): This Department does not maintain record of e-commerce platforms or companies in the country.

(c): Complaints relating to delivery of defective goods, damaged goods and also non-delivery of products are being received in the National Consumer Helpline being run by the Department of Consumer affairs. Complaints regarding e-commerce received in National Consumer Helpline are referred to the companies concerned for redressal. In some cases, consumers are advised to file complaints in the appropriate consumer forum for redressal.

(d): This Department receives suggestions on various issues in different sectors including e-commerce sector. The same are forwarded to the concerned bodies of the Government to take action as per law.

*****
ILLEGAL IMPORT OF PEPPER

2439. SHRI K. K. RAGESH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is aware of the reports about illegal import of pepper and other spices from some of the South East Asian countries to India; and

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any concrete measure to address such illegal imports?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b): Several requests /representations have been received from State Governments, public representatives, growers associations etc regarding the illegal import of low quality pepper into India from Vietnam through Sri Lanka. Since most of the pepper producing countries are in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, the stakeholders have raised apprehensions of routing the pepper produced in ASEAN countries including Vietnam to India through Sri Lanka, by utilizing the provisions of India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA) and Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). However, no such representation has been received regarding illegal import of other spices.

The various steps taken up by the Government to curb illegal import of pepper include, inter-alia, the following:

(i) Vide DGFT Notification dated 6/12/2017, Union Government fixed Rs.500/- per kg as Minimum Import Price for Black Pepper.

(ii) Subsequently, amendment was brought out in the Minimum Import Price (MIP) Notification by making import of pepper over & above Rs.500/- per kilogram free and import below Rs.500/- per kg. prohibited vide DGFT Notification dated 21/3/2018.

(iii) To prevent import of cheap pepper from other countries through Sri-Lanka by taking advantage of the provisions of India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA) and Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), Sri Lankan Authorities have been requested to exercise extreme care and diligence in issuing the Certificates of Origin.

(iv) Instruction has been issued to authorized officers of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and field formations of Customs to be vigilant at the point of entry in the ports in order to stop the possibility of entry of inferior quality pepper from other countries.

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RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2441
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08\textsuperscript{th} AUGUST, 2018

ELECTRONIC PLATFORM FOR PROCUREMENT OF CONSUMABLES

2441. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA:

Will the Minister of \textbf{COMMERCE & INDUSTRY} be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created any electronic platform for procurement of consumables and other items in Government establishments;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the newly created e-platform, if any, is superior to the earlier mechanism of physical procurement;
(d) if so, the details thereof;
(e) whether Government has made any financial allocation for this purpose in the recent budget; and
(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

\textbf{ANSWER}

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Government has set up Government e-Marketplace as a 100\% Government owned Section 8 Company registered under the Companies Act, 2013, for providing online platform for procurement of general Goods and Services by Government Organizations.
(c) & (d) Government e Marketpace leverages technology to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the Government users to achieve the best value for their money.
(e) & (f) Yes, Sir. An allocation of Rs.100 crore has been made for Government e-Marketplace in the budget 2018-19.

***
WTO HELP ON RESOLVING TRADE IMBALANCE WITH CHINA

2443. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has sought the help of World Trade Organisation (WTO) in resolving the imbalance in trade between India and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be resolved?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) No Sir,

(b) & (c) Does not arise.

****
CULTIVATION OF RUBBER IN KONKAN REGION

2444(H). SHRI NARAYAN RANE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land along the border area of Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Goa and Karnataka is highly fertile and the weather and ample availability of water is suitable for the cultivation of rubber;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government has taken or proposed to take any special step for the cultivation of crops, particularly rubber crops, in the fertile land of Konkan region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) The land along the border area of Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Goa and Karnataka is moderately suitable for natural rubber (NR) cultivation.

(b) to (c) The Rubber Board has been providing assistance for planting NR in non-traditional regions including Konkan region. Rates of financial assistance for new planting and replanting along with eligibility conditions in Medium Term Framework (MTF) (2017-18 to 2019-20) are given as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Rate of assistance</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-traditional region including Konkan region</td>
<td>Rs 40,000 (Rs 35,000 per ha and Rs 5000 per ha for use of certified planting materials)</td>
<td>Upto 2 ha for growers owning upto 5 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further, the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India has agreed to extend the activities of rubber plantation development in the State of Maharashtra in convergence with MGNREGA

******
IMPOSITION OF SAFEGUARD DUTY ON IMPORT OF SOLAR CELLS

2445. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recommended imposition of safeguard duty for two years on import of solar cells to protect domestic players from steep rise in the inbound shipments of the product;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the increased imports of solar cells whether or not assembled in modules or panels in India have caused serious injury and threaten to cause serious injury to the domestic producers of the product; and

(d) if so, whether the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has conducted any investigation in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)


An examination of the application and the evidence / details / documents submitted under said Rules was undertaken. Thereafter, a Safeguard investigation against imports of the said product into India was initiated vide Notice of Initiation (NOI) dated 19.12.2017.

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) after completing the investigation in accordance with the laid down rules came to the conclusion that increased imports of Solar Cells whether or not assembled in modules or panels into India, have caused serious injury and also threaten to cause serious injury to the domestic producers in India. Therefore, Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) after critically analysing the submissions made by the interested parties during the course of investigation, has recommended imposition of Safeguard Duty on
imports of Solar Cells whether or not assembled in modules or panels for two years vide final findings dated 16.07.2018 as per details given below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Safeguard Duty Recommended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
<td>Safeguard duty @ 25% ad valorem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Year (for first 6 months)</td>
<td>Safeguard duty @ 20% ad valorem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Year (for next 6 months)</td>
<td>Safeguard duty @ 15% ad valorem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the imports from developing nations, as listed in Notification No.19/2016- custom(NT) dated 5th February, 2016, except China PR and Malaysia do not exceed 3% individually and 9% collectively, the import of product under consideration originating from developing nations except China PR, and Malaysia will not attract Safeguard Duty in terms of proviso to Section 8B (1) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

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