

Trade restrictive measures affect USD 1.4 trillion worth imports of G20 countries

In recent years, there has been increase in the number of trade restrictive measures resorted by developing and developed countries to discourage imports and protect their local industries. These trade restrictive measures may be in the form of hiking import duties, levying anti-dumping and countervailing duties, imposing additional certification or quality standards, introducing tariff rate quote, quantitative controls and other restrictions.

World Trade Organisation released a report on import restrictive measures taken by G20 countries since 2009 on October 28, 2021. G20 countries play an important role in the multilateral trade system as they account for 76% of global imports. According to the report, the amount of G20 countries' imports affected by their import restrictive measures has grown more than six times from USD 214 billion in 2009 to USD 1.4 trillion by 2020. As of 2020, import restrictive measures of G20 countries affected 10% of these countries' cumulative imports, up from 1.5% in 2009. Specifically, the share of G20's imports affected by import restrictive measures doubled between 2016 and 2018 because of hike in import duties on steel and aluminium, and by tariff increases introduced as part of bilateral trade tensions, the WTO report shows.

India

The report shows that G20 countries have imposed 130 anti-dumping measures against imports between January-June 2021. Of this, India imposed 26 measures, which is the second highest after 50 measures imposed by USA. The number of anti-dumping measures imposed by India has grown more than four times in January-June 2021 from the preceding six months. China, Canada and Argentina are the other countries resorting to the highest number of anti-dumping measures, as they imposed 20, 15 and six measures respectively in the first six months of the current year.

India imposed one countervailing measure against import during January-June 2021 and it is on par with the number for China and Canada. USA imposed the maximum number of countervailing measures during this period with a total of 20.

Specific Trade Concerns

Member countries raise Specific Trade Concerns (STC) on the import restrictive measures initiated by their trade partners at WTO. Generally, member countries raise concern about the sanitary and phytosanitary measures related to plant and animal safety taken by their trade partners, if they feel that such measures are unjustified. In July 2021, India raised concern about European Union's classification of anthraquinone as a pesticide and the maximum

residual limit (MRL) norms that is applicable to imported tea. India also raised concern about Russia's move to classify tea as "fruits and vegetables".

India voiced its concern at the WTO against the new affidavit and product certification norms imposed by Argentina for imported boards derived from wood.

Trade Concerns raised against India

India's trade partners have raised concern about the import restrictive measures taken by India at the WTO. For instance, Taiwan has raised concern about the quality control order introduced by India on imported caustic soda. Taiwan, European Union and Indonesia raised concern about the import policy on tyres introduced by India. Specifically, Indonesia raised concern about Indian Standards and import restriction on automotive products such as wheels, rims, safety glass and helmets. Japan has complained about India's import restriction on air conditioners and mandatory certification for steel products. On the other hand, Australia, Canada, EU, Russia and USA have voiced concern about India's restriction on import of certain pulses.

Notifications

PIB

Prime Minister co-chairs 18th India-ASEAN Summit

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1767289>

Prime Minister participates in 16th East Asia Summit on October 27, 2021

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1767057>

ADB offers USD 100 million loan for agribusiness in Maharashtra

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1767019>

Fashion Show displays 60 designs of Khadi

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1766899>

Minister calls for reducing import dependence for steel

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1766339>

CBIC

Amendment in Courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) Regulations, 1998

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2021/cs-nt2021/csnt86-2021.pdf>

Introduction of anti-absorption provision in Customs Tariff Rules, 1995

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2021/cs-nt2021/csnt84-2021.pdf>

Anti-dumping duty on iron and steel products imported from China

<https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2021/cs-add2021/csadd64-2021.pdf>

RBI

Micro finance: Empowering a Billion Dreams

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_SpeechesView.aspx?Id=1137

DGFT

Revision in tariff rate quote quantity and extension of application date under India-Mauritius CECPA

<https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/9b%20f2c92-9c1a-4d2c-aebd-4dd241e9d59d/PN%20English%2031%20dt%2028-10-21-.pdf>

