

DOMESTIC SOLAR PV MAKERS SEEK ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES

APRIL 17, 2013

BUSINESS STANDARD

With Europe expected to decide on anti-dumping duty on solar equipment on June 6, Indian solar photovoltaic (PV) manufacturers are seeking imposition of 70-80 cents duty for every kWh capacity on eight Chinese companies and 20-30 cents on American, Malaysian and Taiwanese companies.

This will be in line with the 35 per cent anti-dumping duty on tier-1 Chinese companies and 200 per cent on the remaining companies, which is in place in the US. In Europe, imposition of an interim duty of 70-80 per cent is expected when the pronouncement is made on June 6. Subsequently, 60-70 per cent anti-dumping and 10-15 per cent anti-subsidy duties are expected by the year-end, industry representatives said on Tuesday.

The domestic industry had in November 2012 initiated the anti-dumping case with the Directorate of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties under the finance ministry. "Cheap imports have put Rs 10,000-crore investment in plant and machinery in problem," said Ajay K Goel, chief executive officer, Tata Power Solar. He said Chinese manufacturers and affiliates in Taiwan were selling cells and modules at a cost that makes domestic producers unable to compete. Goel was speaking as part of an industry briefing under the aegis of Indian Solar Manufacturers Association.

Though there is a lobby of solar power producers that is opposing the move, the association is seeking a two-way solution of a more comprehensive domestic content requirement under the solar missions of both the Centre and the states, and a short-term protection through anti-dumping or countervailing duties. In his presentation, S Venkataramani, Indosolar's CEO and general secretary of the association, said continuation of cheap imports could see perpetual dependence on import of solar products as it disincentivises investment in manufacturing. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission launched in 2010 had set a target of 20,000 Mw grid-connected solar power by 2022.