

Safeguard duty mooted for products from China, others

■ Recommended for two-and-a-half years to guard domestic players

fe Bureau
New Delhi, Aug 3

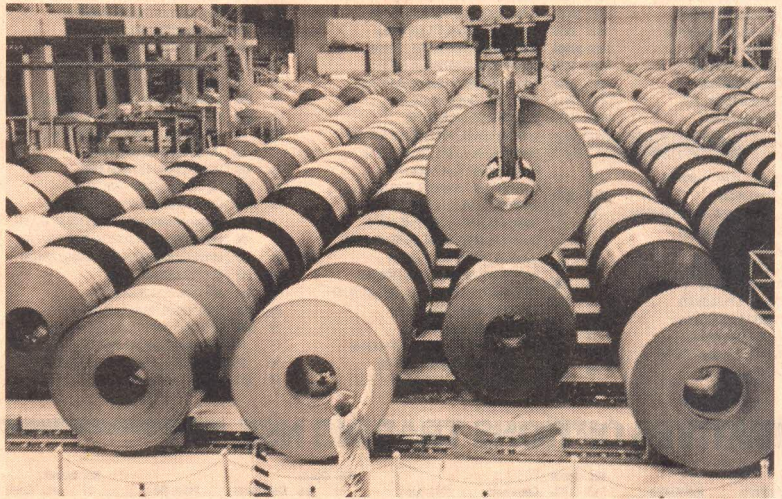
AHEAD of the scheduled expiry of the minimum import price (MIP) on steel on August 4, the Directorate General of Safeguards has recommended safeguard duty on specified steel products, HR sheets and plates more than 600 mm wide (PUC), for two-and-a-half years, from China, Ukraine and Indonesia, to guard domestic primary steelmakers from imports.

The safeguard duty will apply at the rate of 10% for the first year, 8% for the next year and 6% for the first six months of the third year for imports of these products at a price below \$504 per tonne, the Directorate General of Safeguards said in a notification.

Anti-dumping duty, if any, would be deducted from the applicable safeguard duty.

The government had in February imposed MIP on 173 products including 30 variants of HR products, in the range between \$341 and \$752 per tonne. Leading domestic firms such as SAIL, Essar Steel, JSW Steel and JSPL sought protection as they feared that imports would again start picking up with the expiry of the MIP on August 4.

“The increased imports of PUC into India have caused serious injury and are threatening to cause serious injuries to the domestic producers of PUC and it will be in the public interest to impose safeguard duty on imports,” the Directorate General of Safeguards



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Imposition of safeguard duty will aid in recovery of the domestic industry and ensure that the end users get a stable supply of subject goods from the domestic industry, the Directorate General of Safeguards said

said in its recommendations.

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mestic industry and ensure that the end users get a stable supply of subject goods from the domestic industry,” it said.

The government had in March extended the safeguard duty on HR Coils more than 600 mm wide for two years till March 2018.

On August 2, the Directorate General of Anti-dumping recommended provisional duties — in the approximate range of \$69-152 per tonne on hot-rolled coil and “HR not in coil” given the current import prices — from specified producers in China, Japan, Korea, Brazil, Russia and Indonesia, after concluding these items are being imported into India at below normal (cost) price.