

India probes alleged dumping of digital printing plates from China, Japan, 3 other nations

India has begun a probe into alleged dumping of digital printing plates from China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam on a complaint by a domestic manufacturer, a commerce ministry notification said. The probe is being carried out by the directorate general of trade remedies (DGTR) on an application filed by Technova Imaging Systems for imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of 'digital offset printing plates' from the five countries.

If established that alleged dumping has caused material injury to the domestic manufacturer, the DGTR would recommend imposition of anti-dumping duty on the imports. The final call to impose the duty would be taken by the finance ministry.

In a notification, DGTR said it has "sufficient evidence of dumping" of the plates from certain companies of these five countries. The period of investigation covers July 2018 to March 2019. However, it would also analyse the data of previous three years (2015-18).

According to global trade norms, a country is allowed to impose tariffs on such dumped products to provide a level-playing field to domestic manufacturers. The duty is imposed only after a thorough investigation by a quasi-judicial body, like DGTR in India.

In its probe, the directorate has to conclude whether the dumped products are impacting domestic industries.

Imposition of anti-dumping duty is permissible under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime. The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.

India is one of the most attractive markets for global producers due to its large middle class population.

China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam are key trading partners of India.

Source: The Economic Times