

Steel export up in January, but halved y-o-y in 10-month period of FY23

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Steel exports witnessed improved sentiments in January, two months after export duty was waived. Exports rose 33 per cent over December to 0.59 million tonne (mt) though on a y-o-y basis, exports slipped 28 per cent.

For the April - January period, finished steel exports including non-alloyed and alloyed offerings and stainless steel, halved to

5.33 mt against 11.14 mt a year back indicating continued global recessionary pressures and demand slowdown.

According to a Steel Ministry report, non-alloyed steel export - the key offering - stood at 0.52 mt in January, down 27 per cent y-o-y.

However, the numbers improved over December by 60 per cent when exports were 0.323 mt but in the 10-month period exports were down 68 per cent, to 3.24 mt.

On the other hand, al-

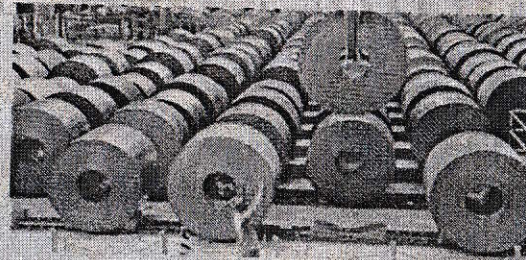
loyed and stainless steel exports decreased 30 per cent y-o-y to 0.07 mt. January 2022 exports were 0.1 mt.

On a 10-month-basis, the segment saw an 116 per cent increase in exports, y-o-y, to 2.08mt (0.96 mt).

Trade sources told *businessline* that some mills had opted for export of alloyed steel since the segment did not have the duty levy.

SENTIMENTS POSITIVE

Jayant Acharya, Deputy MD, JSW Steel - the country's largest steel maker by volume - in the post-result



RECESSIONARY TREND. Finished steel exports dropped to 5.33 mt against 11.14 mt a year back, indicating continued global demand slowdown

conference call said, on the pricing side, things were looking up.

"In the last few weeks, we have seen the international prices move up. On a

dollar basis, I think China moved up by about \$100/tonne. European CFR also, moved up in the range of \$140.

And we are seeing a reflection of that in India," he said adding that prices were initiated from January (in the domestic markets).

"Going forward, we see a much improved POB (freight on board) realisation, Acharya said.

IMPORTS

With international and domestic prices being "similarly poised", imports have

seen a decline sequentially.

January imports fell 9 per cent to 0.596 mt against 0.653 mt in the previous month. On a y-o-y comparison, imports rose 33 per cent; while for the 10-month period imports moved up 28 per cent to 5 mt.

India was a net importer in January, for the fourth straight month, although gap reduced significantly to 0.004 mt only (the lowest so far).

But in April - January, India was net exporter of steel.