

Solar PV exporters to challenge US order on countervailing duties

SEEKS FAIRNESS. India to review US ruling and check what subsidies they have taken into account: govt sources

Rishi Ranjan Kala

New Delhi

Following the US government's imposition of preliminary countervailing duties (CVD) on Indian solar cells and modules, domestic exporters are navigating a clouded regulatory outlook, further complicated by a pending anti-dumping investigation and volatile tariff negotiations.

In response, top government sources and solar PV manufacturers have confirmed that they are contemplating legal challenges to the order, noting that the full investigation process has not yet concluded.

"This CVD is against India and a couple of more countries against whom investigations were conducted. Du-



FEELING THE HEAT. US solar manufacturers had been complaining about Asian solar imports for a long time

ties are already imposed on China, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam in South-East Asia. In modules, our main competitor is China and a couple of more countries in the region. To some extent, technically it's on an even footing with India," said a government source. The government will review the US preliminary CVD ruling and

check what subsidies they have taken into account for this action. Also, how much PLI disbursements have happened, said a source.

Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Energy Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, said: "Once CVD is imposed, you will have to legally fight it. So, our companies will have to challenge that in the

appellate forum, but until then this will continue."

The Indian market is already oversupplied with solar module manufacturing capacity at more than 140 GW as on date, which is expected to increase to over 165 GW by March 2027, said Ankit Jain, Vice-President & Co Group Head of Corporate Ratings at ICRA.

'NOT SURPRISING'

Labanya Prakash Jena, Director at Climate and Sustainability Initiative, said US solar manufacturers had been complaining about Asian solar imports for a long time, so the announcement is not surprising.

"India has excess solar manufacturing capacity of 150 GW, and current capacity utilisation could be around 35 per cent. The hit

to US exports was not a major dent to Indian solar manufacturers' business. The real issue is that we created excess capacity when global solar manufacturing capacity was already in excess. Self-reliance is a good thing, but should not be at the expense of profitability and self-sustainability," he added.

An official with a leading solar PV module exporter said India's impact is limited, as the country exports 3 GW to the US.

"US solar firms have been pushing this issue since early 2025, which offered large domestic manufacturers enough time to strategise in advance. So, the impact is limited on almost all top producers, many of whom have already expanded their footprint in the US," he added.