

# Govt begins talks to finalise EU products for retaliatory tariffs

Consultations on with relevant departments and ministries

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The department of commerce has started intense consultations with relevant government departments and ministries to finalise products from the European Union (EU) that will attract higher import duty — as part of India's retaliatory measures against the trade bloc's steel tariff.

"We are in the process of finalising (the products). We are having discussions with concerned ministerial departments to select the products on which we will put in the tariffs," a top government official told *Business Standard*.

Last week, India informed the World Trade Organization (WTO) that it has decided to put in retaliatory measures against the trade bloc's steel tariff. The tariff has been in effect since 2018 and has been extended till June 2025.

Provisional safeguard measures on imports of certain steel products were first imposed in 2018 on 26 varieties of steel.

The safeguard measures took the form of tariff rate quota (TRQ) and any steel beyond the quota was subject to 25 per cent additional tariff.

While the measure was supposed to be in place till June 2021, it was later extended till June 30, 2024. In June, the EU extended safeguard duties on steel imports till June 2026.

The larger idea was to 'prevent economic damage' for EU steel producers. This comes amid high global steel overcapacity and surge in exports

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Top 5 imports from EU in Apr-Jul (FY25)	
	Value (\$mn)
Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery	4,339.39
Electrical machinery, equipment	2,046.57
Aircraft and spacecraft parts	1,690.19
Medical instruments	1,276.19
Organic chemicals	791.03

**\$18,859 mn**  
Total imports



from China via Asian nations to the trade bloc.

"We had a lot of discussions with them (EU) that they should not put India under additional tariffs. But they insisted on continuing with the additional tariffs, which we have been discussing with them for a long time. We finally had to seriously look at imposing retaliatory tariffs," the official cited above said.

"We will be looking at corresponding products, in which we will impose additional imports. It will be equivalent to the amount of loss that Indian businesses had to suffer," the official added.

Over a five-year period, around \$4.4 billion worth of

India's exports have been impacted and the EU has collected \$1.1 billion import duty due to imposition of tariffs.

India plans to impose an equivalent amount of duty on the goods originating from the EU.

Two years ago, India had also proposed additional import duties of 15 per cent on import of 22 products, including whisky and cheese from the United Kingdom (UK). This was in retaliation to the UK's decision to impose restrictions on steel products.

According to Delhi-based think tank GTRI, India's steel industry is already struggling with cheap imports from China.