

Title: Need to withdraw import duty on aluminium to protect the interest of small manufacturing units - Laid.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (SOLAPUR) : Government is of course empowered to levy or enhance customs duty to regulate imports to boost domestic production and exports; to provide protection to indigenous industry where cost of production is high and in the case of aluminium metal, exactly reverse is happening. The cost for production of aluminium in India is almost the lowest in the world and there is hardly any threat of cheap imports of the metal; and still 30.8% import duty has been levied on aluminium, not to protect the interest of domestic producers of aluminium wares and goods, but to keep the cost of primary metal high, even higher than the international prices.

This inevitably causes a hike in the cost of production of aluminium goods for secondary producers, raising the prices of aluminium wares and goods to levels beyond the reach of the poor, leading to closure of small manufacturing units rendering lakhs of workers jobless.

I would therefore suggest and urge upon Government to reduce or withdraw the import duty on primary aluminium to keep the cost of indigenous metal in line with the imported metal.