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Title: Regarding waiving off of duty on manufacture of copper alloy tubes, pipes etc. to help small and medium copper smelters in India.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Hon. Speaker, Madam, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like to raise an important issue. There are about five thousand small and medium copper smelters in India who are engaged in the manufacture of copper alloy tubes, pipes etc. to the tune of around 1,30,000 to 1,60,000 tonnes per year. The employees engaged in this task are around four to five lakhs. As per the trade agreement with the ASEAN countries we are excluding the foreign companies to bring the finished product into India without duty. The people who are purchasing raw material from abroad are being penalized by being asked to pay five per cent duty on it. Therefore, the Indian smelters who are producing these copper tubes and pipes are being harassed because of this. Their profitability has gone almost to zero per cent. Around five to six lakh peoples are dependent on this and their job is at stake. The advantage of this trade agreement is being taken by countries like Japan and China. They are setting up plants in Vietnam and through Vietnam they are sending it to India. The copper tubes and pipes directly go to the consumers without any sales tax and duty on it. The hon. Prime Minister is talking about making things in India. Therefore, I would like to request the Government that these copper smelters who are trying to produce copper tubes and pipes in India, for them the duty should be waived so that they can survive and let us also have a level playing field.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Anupriya Patel – Not present.