

India topped WTO 2021 list for trade-related concerns

Its policy on tyres, import curbs on ACs, quality norms for copier paper and caustic soda, GM-free certification for imported food items were discussed

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Over a third of the new trade-related concerns in 2021 were raised against various import-related restrictions imposed by India, according to the annual report of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

“A record-breaking 20 new trade concerns were raised by WTO members in the Council for Trade in Goods in 2021, up from 13 in 2020,” the report said.

Out of the 20 concerns raised by WTO member nations, seven of them were regarding India’s-import policy on tyres, import restrictions on air conditioners, copier paper quality order, 2020, caustic soda quality control order, standards and import restrictions in automobile sector and requirement of GM and GM-free certificate for imported food consignments.

These issues were raised by countries such as Chinese Taipei, Japan, European

TRADE CONCERNS BY WTO MEMBERS

Country raising concern	Subject
Chinese Taipei	India's caustic soda quality control order
EU, Indonesia, Chinese Taipei	India's import policy on tyres
Japan	India's import restrictions on air conditioners
Japan	India's mandatory certification for steel products
United States	India's order related to requirement of non-GM cum GM-free certificate with imported food consignment
Indonesia	India's plain copier paper quality order 2020
Indonesia	India's standards and import restrictions in the automotive sector

Source: WTO annual report, 2022

Union, Indonesia, and the United States (US).

The annual report on the WTO’s work in 2021 and early 2022 was released a little more than a month after the completion of the crucial 12th ministerial conference in Geneva. “MC12 is proof that the WTO

can deliver results. Members have shown they are capable of reaching multilateral compromises and finding solutions to contemporary challenges, provided they have the political will to do so,” the report quoted WTO DG Ngozi, Okonjo-Iweala as saying. The

report also noted that India and the US were the leading initiators of anti-dumping probes, accounting for more than 30 per cent of new investigations. However, that number had halved from 60 per cent in 2020.

In the first six months of 2021, India initiated 25 new anti-dumping investigations, while the US initiated 11, down from 57 and 58, respectively, during the same period of the previous year. As far as products are concerned, anti-dumping investigations involving steel products were the subject of extensive debate in 2021.

Countries can impose anti-dumping measures or duties on imports of a product where the exporting company sends the product at a price lower than its normal value and lower than the price it charges in its home market. The dumped imports cause or threaten to cause injury to the domestic industry in the importing country.