

## Anti-dumping duty on inert gas imports from China extended by six months

R-134a is used as a high temperature refrigerant for refrigeration, automobile ACs

**KR SRIVATS**

New Delhi, May 28

The Finance Ministry has extended by six months the validity of existing anti-dumping duty on R-134a – an inert gas that is also called as tetrafluoroethane – imports from China.

R-134a is primarily used as a high temperature refrigerant for domestic refrigeration and automobile air-conditioners. It is also used in plastic foam blowing, as a cleaning solvent and as a propellant for the delivery of pharmaceuticals (e.g. bronchodilators), gas dusters, and in air driers, for removing the moisture from compressed air. Based on the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) February 2021 move to initiate sunset review of the anti-dumping duty imposed



Sources say the move will have positive impact as it will continue to restrict cheap Chinese imports

in July 2016, the revenue department has now extended the validity by six months till January 10 next year.

SRF Limited, the sole producer of R-134a in the country, had filed the petition seeking sunset review of definitive anti-dumping duty imposed in July 2016. It may be recalled that the revenue department had in July 2016 imposed definitive anti-dumping duty

of \$1.22 per kg on R-134a imports from China. This anti-dumping duty was to be valid for five years till July 2021, but now extended till January 10 next year.

Prashant Yadav, President and CEO, Fluorochemicals Business, SRF Limited, told *BusinessLine* that the Centre's move to extend the anti-dumping duty should have some positive impact as it will continue to restrict cheap imports from China.

"HFC 134-a is mainly used by the automobile sector which is currently under stress, however post Covid-19, we expect this sector to come back strongly coupled with pent up demand from the auto service sector," Yadav said.

He also highlighted that India, today, is self-reliant in the refrigerants space and that SRF had played a key role in that, "else we would have had no option but to rely on imports, mainly from China".