

24 April 2026

(26-3112)

Page: 1/2

Committee on Safeguards

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 12.1(A) OF THE AGREEMENT ON
SAFEGUARDS ON INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION AND
THE REASONS FOR IT**

INDIA

Soda ash

The following communication, dated 21 April 2026 and received on 24 April 2026, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of India.

Pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards (Safeguards Agreement), India notifies that a safeguard investigation has been initiated as follows:

1. Specify the date when the investigation was initiated

India initiated the investigation vide notification **F. No. 22/01/2026-DGTR** dated 16 March 2026. A copy of Notice of Initiation of the investigation, as published in Part-I Section I of the Gazette of India Extraordinary is attached.¹

2. Period of Investigation

The Period of investigation (POI) considered for the purpose of present investigation is from April 2020-September 2025. The Investigating Authority has considered January 2025-September 2025 as the most recent period for the purpose of the present investigation.

3. The description of the product involved

- (a) The product under consideration for the investigation is "Disodium Carbonate", ("PUC"), also popularly known as 'Soda Ash'. It is a white, crystalline, water-soluble chemical with the chemical formula as Na_2CO_3 .
- (b) Soda ash can be produced either naturally or through synthetic route. Based on bulk density, it can be 'light' or 'dense'. All types and forms of soda ash are covered under the scope of PUC.
- (c) The PUC falls under the HSN tariff sub-heading 283620. The tariff headings are indicative only and not binding on the investigation.

¹ See link <https://egazette.gov.in/WriteReadData/2026/271033.pdf>. In addition, a PDF version of the gazette has been submitted electronically. To consult them, please contact Ms Anne Richards of the Rules Division (anne.richards@wto.org).

4. Reasons for initiation of investigation

- (a) The investigation has been initiated following the examination of the safeguard application of the Domestic Industry (DI) alleging serious injury and the threat thereof caused by the recent, sudden, sharp and significant increase in imports of the PUC. In its application, the Domestic Industry has provided the following information:
- (i) There is a recent, sudden, sharp and significant increase in imports of the PUC beginning in 2023–2024, which continued thereafter till September 2025 during the period 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2025.
 - (ii) The DI has reported that imports have increased primarily due to a number of unforeseen factors, including:
 - A. Significant excess capacity globally far exceeding global consumption.
 - B. Disruption in traditional trade route to Europe due to Russia-Ukraine conflict along with economic slowdown, leading to diversion of exports to India.
 - C. Economic slowdown, persistent high inflation, higher energy costs, depreciation of currency, decline in industrial production etc. has reduced demand from major end-user industries such as glass and automotive.
 - D. Decline in global and country-wise demand for PUC, except India where demand is still strong. Exports meant for key markets by major exporting countries, are being increasingly diverted to India.
 - E. Substantial and rapid capacity expansion in major countries, namely, China, USA and Türkiye despite decline in demand, leading to oversupply in the global markets.
 - (iii) The confluence of all the above unforeseen developments and the effect of obligations undertaken by India under the GATT and other covered agreements have resulted in a recent, sudden, sharp and significant increase in imports of PUC into India, which is causing serious injury to the domestic industry.
- (b) Hence, it has been decided to initiate the safeguard investigation under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 and Rule 5 of the Safeguard Measures (Quantitative Restrictions) Rules, 2012.

5. Point of contact for the investigation and deadlines

- (a) All interested parties are required to register themselves on the SETU Portal (<https://setu.dgtr.gov.in>) in order to participate in the investigation. Interested parties have been requested to make their views known within a period of 37 days from the date of the notice issued (i.e. 16 March 2026). All communications and submissions from the interested parties shall be uploaded on the SETU portal under their registered name and corresponding case ID.
- (b) The known producers/exporters, the Governments of the exporting countries through their embassies in India, and the importers and users in India who are known to be associated with the subject goods are informed separately to enable them to file all the relevant information within the stipulated time limits.
- (c) If no information is received within the prescribed time limit or the information received is incomplete, the Investigating Authority may record its findings on the basis of the facts available on record in accordance with the Rules.
-