

provides that the Secretary may extend this time limit if the Secretary decides that it is reasonable to do so. *See* CFR 351.213(d)(1). In this case, petitioners' withdrawal of their request for review was within the 90-day time limit, and there were no other requests for review. Therefore, the Department is rescinding this administrative review for the period June 1, 2001 through May 31, 2002. The Department will issue appropriate assessment instructions to the U.S. Customs Service. This notice is published in accordance with sections 751(a)(2)(B) and 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: December 24, 2002.

Faryar Shirzad,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-533-808]

Stainless Steel Wire Rods from India; Preliminary Results and Partial Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Preliminary Results and Partial Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce ("the Department") is conducting an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on stainless steel wire rods ("SSWR") from India in response to a request by the Viraj Group, Limited ("Viraj Group"), and by petitioners, who requested a review of the following companies: Panchmahal Steel Limited ("Panchmahal"), Mukand Limited ("Mukand") and Isibars Steel ("Isibars"). The period of review ("POR") is December 1, 2000, through November 30, 2001.

We have preliminarily determined that Mukand and the Viraj Group have sold subject merchandise at less than normal value ("NV") during the POR. In addition, we have determined to rescind the review with respect to Isibars based on the withdrawal of the only request for review of the company. Lastly, we have preliminarily determined to apply an adverse facts available ("AFA") rate to all sales and entries of Panchmahal's subject merchandise during the POR. If these preliminary results are adopted in our final results of this administrative review, we will instruct the U.S.

Customs Service to assess antidumping duties on entries of subject merchandise during the POR for which the importer-specific assessment rates are above de minimis.

We invite interested parties to comment on these preliminary results. Parties who submit arguments in this segment of the proceeding are requested to submit with the argument: (1) a statement of the issue, and (2) a brief summary of the argument.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 8, 2003

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For the Viraj Group contact Stephen Bailey at (202) 482-1102, for Panchmahal contact Marlene Hewitt at (202) 482-1385, for Mukand contact Jonathon Herzog at (202) 482-4271, and for Isibars contact Lilit Astvatsatrian at (202) 482-6412, or Robert Bolling at (202) 482-3434. AD/CVD Enforcement Group III, Office 9, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Applicable Statute

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Tariff Act of 1930 ("the Act") by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act. In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all references to the Department's regulations are to the provisions codified at 19 C.F.R. Part 351 (2001).

Background

On October 20, 1993, the Department published the final determination in the **Federal Register** that resulted in the antidumping duty order on certain stainless steel wire rod from India. *See Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Certain Stainless Steel Wire Rods From India*, 58 FR 54110 (October 20, 1993) ("Antidumping Duty Order"). On December 3, 2001, the Department published in the **Federal Register** a notice of opportunity to request an administrative review of this antidumping duty order. *See Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Opportunity To Request Administrative Review*, 66 FR 60183, (December 3, 2001) ("Opportunity to Request Administrative Review").

On December 27, 2001, the Viraj Group requested an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on certain stainless steel wire rods from India. *See* the Viraj Group's December

27, 2001 submission. On December 28, 2001, petitioners requested an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on certain stainless steel wire rods from India for Isibars, Mukand, and Panchmahal. *See* petitioner's December 28, 2001 submission. In accordance with 19 C.F.R. 351.221(b), we published a notice of initiation of the review of Isibars, Mukand, Panchmahal and the Viraj Group on January 29, 2002. *See Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews*, 67 FR 4236, (January 29, 2002).

On January 29, 2002, the Department issued a questionnaire to the Viraj Group, Panchmahal, Mukand, and Isibars. The Department initiated a cost of production inquiry and requested that Isibars and the Viraj Group respond to section D of the questionnaire in addition to sections A, B, and C.¹

Isibars, Mukand, and the Viraj Group submitted their Section A questionnaire responses on February 26, 2002. On March 15, and 20, 2002, Panchmahal submitted its Section A questionnaire response in two submissions.

On March 26, 2002, petitioners submitted comments regarding Isibars' Section A questionnaire response. On April 5, 2002, Isibars and Mukand submitted their Sections B and C questionnaire responses. On April 8 and 9, 2002, the Viraj Group submitted its Sections B, C, and D questionnaire responses, respectively. On April 9, 2002, Panchmahal submitted its Sections B and C questionnaire responses. On May 9, 2002, petitioners withdrew their request for an administrative review for Isibars.

On April 23 and 25, 2002, petitioners submitted allegations that Panchmahal and Mukand were selling subject merchandise below their costs of production, respectively. *See petitioners April 23, 2002 submission at 2 and April 25, 2002 at 2.* On May 30, 2002, the Department initiated a cost of production inquiry with respect to Mukand, and issued its Section D questionnaire to Mukand. On June 11, 2002, the Department initiated a cost of production inquiry with respect to Panchmahal, and issued its Section D questionnaire to Panchmahal. On June 27, 2002, Mukand submitted its Section

¹ Because the Department disregarded certain Viraj Group sales made in the home market at prices below the cost of producing the subject merchandise in the most recently completed segment of this proceeding and excluded such sales from normal value, the Department determined that there are reasonable grounds to believe or suspect that the Viraj Group made sales in the home market at prices below the cost of producing the merchandise in this review. *See Final Results*; and section 773(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Act.