

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Budget Estimates
6 May 2016

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Anti-Dumping Reforms

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Ketter

QUESTION No.: BI-2

Senator KETTER: On 18 February, Minister Pyne issued a press release stating that the government had initiated the second stage of its antidumping reforms, which included asking the Anti-Dumping Commission to report on the impact of Asian steelmakers on the Australian market. During the Senate inquiry on the steel industry, the Anti-Dumping Commissioner told the committee that the report was given to the minister on 4 April.

Is that correct?

Mr Seymour: Yes, that is correct.

Senator KETTER: If that is the case, I note that the minister has had the report for over a month. When will it be released?

Mr Lawson: That is a matter for the minister. We have been conducting consultations with industry since the report was provided to the minister.

Senator KETTER: Right. In relation to the International Trade Remedies Forum, under the Customs Act this group is required to meet twice a year. Is that correct?

Mr Seymour: That is correct.

Senator KETTER: And when did the forum last meet?

Mr Seymour: In December of last year.

Senator KETTER: How many times has the forum met since the last election?

Mr Seymour: From memory, I am going to say three times, but I would like to go back and check the record to ensure that I am correct in that.

Senator KETTER: That obviously is at odds with the statutory requirement—is that correct?

Mr Seymour: The Customs Act requires that the forum meet twice each calendar year.

Ms Beauchamp: If I could add to that. The government held two meetings of the forum in 2015—17 August and 2 December.

Senator KETTER: And in 2014?

Ms Beauchamp: As the commissioner has said, we would have to look back that far.

Senator KETTER: You do not believe that they did meet?

Ms Beauchamp: I am not sure. I would have to have a look.

Senator KETTER: The commissioner has indicated that potentially there have been three meetings since September 2013. Ms Beauchamp, are you able to tell us how this situation might be rectified?

Ms Beauchamp: I do not know if there is a position to be rectified. As the commissioner has said, the last meeting was in December and the next one is to be scheduled.

Senator KETTER: The commissioner has told us that, to the best of his recollection, there could have been three.

Senator Canavan: We have taken that on notice. We will get that information to you.

ANSWER

No meetings of the International Trade Remedies Forum were held in 2014. The Forum met twice in 2015, in August and December.