



News Letter

Special points of interest:

- Garments
- Labour
- Child Labour
- Migration
- Environment
- EPF

Social Awareness and Voluntary Education (SAVE)

SAVE (Social Awareness and Voluntary Education) is a registered Indian Non-Governmental Organization, promoted in the year 1993, as a growing response to the challenge of preventing the child labor practices. Internalizing the fact that the issue of child labor needs to be addressed in a multipronged strategy SAVE expanded its intervention among women and textile and garment industry workers focusing promotion of the comprehensive rights of the garment and textile industry workers and empowerment of women. Currently SAVE reaches out to children, young women, women, textile and garment workers including the migrant workers.

Since 1995, SAVE has been carrying out programs among children in distress primarily among the children working in textile and hazardous industries with specific emphasis on promotion of health and educational rights through special schooling for the drop out children and child labourers and through vocational training support. Community sensitization is one of the main activities towards prevention of child labor. SAVE initiated campaigns and advocacy strategies could mainstream the issues of child labor and the plight of young girls in the garment and textile industry. SAVE has the unique credibility of being the champion organization in exposing the child labor issues in Tirupur.

TIRUPUR UPDATE: A NEWSLETTER OF SAVE

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Garments

Apparel, leather sectors need policy shift to boost jobs **The Hindu February 1, 2017**

New Delhi: The Centre needs to focus on apparel, leather and footwear sectors to boost formal and productive job creation in the economy, according to the Economic Survey.

The Survey has recommended that labour and taxation reforms along with Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with the European Union and the U.K. were key to make apparel and leather sector globally competitive. "Apparels and leather sectors offer tremendous opportunities for creation of jobs, especially for women... Apparels are 80-fold more labour-intensive than autos and 240-fold more jobs than steel," according to the annual Survey.

The Survey highlighted challenges faced by the apparel and leather sectors: logistics, labour regulations, tax and tariff policy along with "disadvantages emanating from the international trading environment compared to competitor countries."

Labour law reform

"More FTAs, GST-induced tax rationalization, and labour law reform would add considerably to the job creation potential of the clothing and footwear sectors."

The Survey called for giving workers in the apparel sector choice to decide on various statutory deductions "that become de facto taxes for low-paid workers in small firms that result in a 45% lower disposable salary."

The workers should decide whether they want 12% employee contribution to be deducted for provident fund from their income, whether their 12% employer contribution goes towards Employees' Provident Fund scheme or National Pension System and whether their health insurance premium should go to Employees' State Insurance or a private health insurance of the employer's choice.

It also highlighted high minimum wages as another hurdle, as overtime wage rate is twice that of ordinary wage rate, according to the Minimum Wages Act of 1948.

The Survey said that apparels should receive high priority while negotiating FTAs with the European Union and the United Kingdom as it will "offset an existing disadvantage for India relative to competitors- Bangladesh, Vietnam and Ethiopia which already enjoy better market access."

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<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Apparel-leather-sectors-need-policy-shift-to-boost-jobs/article17124289.ece>

Trade pacts

Based on an in-house analysis in 2016, an FTA with the EU and U.K. can lead to 1.45 lakh additional jobs per annum in the apparel, leather and footwear sectors, according to the Survey.

It pointed out that the introduction of Goods and Service Tax (GST) will provide an “excellent opportunity” to rationalise domestic indirect taxes to avoid discrimination between apparels and man-made fibres.

It also pressed for higher exports of cattle hides used by leather and footwear industry as its chief raw material. The exports of cattle hides are declining due to limited availability of cattle for slaughter in India, “thereby leading to loss of a potential comparative advantage due to underutilisation of the abundantly available natural resource,” according to the Survey.



Economic Survey Report upholds concerns of knitwear industry

The Hindu February 1, 2017

Tirupur: The Economic Survey 2016-17 tabled in Parliament by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Tuesday has vindicated the concerns of knitwear industry about the constraints of existing labour laws in apparel sector and growth impediment caused by tariff/tax policies.

The report also justified demands of the apparel and clothing sector for a need to undertake rationalization of domestic policies which were presently inconsistent with the global patterns.

“One positive thing with the survey report this time has been that the document opened a special chapter for clothing and leather to give emphasis for analysing the trends and policies taken up in such sectors during the past one year”, said Raja Shanmugam, president of Tirupur Exporters Association.

S. Dhananjayan, a senior member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and industry consultant, said the labour reforms necessitated should take into consideration among others the rationalization of overtime wages and also provisions for cluster-based investments to address healthcare of laborers in lieu of prevalent Employees State Insurance Schemes.

The apparel industry’s appeal for expeditious signing of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with European Union and Britain were also reiterated in the document.

“The Economic Survey Report has clearly stated how these FTAs can offset the existing disadvantage of Indian apparels relative to competitors like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Ethiopia”, said Mr. Dhananjayan.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/Economic-Survey-Report-upholds-concerns-of->

Growth-oriented budget, says textile industry

The Hindu February 2, 2017

Coimbatore: The decision of the Union Government to set up 100 international skill centres, continue with the existing tax structure for textile units, and support cluster approach for contract farming are all expected to benefit the textile industry.

According to Southern India Mills' Association chairman M. Senthil Kumar, the main demand of the association to continue the existing tax structure till the GST is implemented has been considered. Additional allocation to the banks for NPA accounts, proposed labour reforms, and cluster approach for contract farming will benefit the cotton-based textile industry.

The Cotton Textiles and Export Promotion Council have said in a press release that the five per cent reduction in Corporate Income Tax for medium and small enterprises with Rs. 50 crore turnovers will benefit the textile sector. However, the Government has not addressed the needs of the export sector though the industry needs support to compete in the international market. It should also restore some of the incentives related to interest subvention for merchant exporters and cotton yarn.

The Clothing Manufacturers' Association of India said the garment industry will benefit from the international skill centres that will be set up. "Though there are no new schemes or programmes specifically for the textiles or garment industry, the budget has several provisions that will help the sector grow faster," said Rahul Mehta, president of the association.

M.B. Raghunath, president (sales and marketing) of Mafatlal Industries, has said that continuation of the current textile policy is good for the industry and the indirect taxes are expected to be addressed when the GST is implemented.

The industry was hopeful of the Government bringing textiles under five per cent tax slab in GST as it is a mass consumption product.

According to A. Sakthivel, president of Federation of Indian Export Organisations, the focus on Government investment on infrastructure is a move in the right direction. The introduction of trade infrastructure export scheme with a budgetary allocation of Rs. 3.96 lakh crore will benefit the exporters.

According to the Indian Textpreneurs Federation with focus on agriculture, cotton sector will also benefit and cotton is the main raw material for the textile industry. With more investment in infrastructure and a growth in the economy, per capita spending will increase. This will benefit the clothing sector.



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<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/Growth-oriented-budget-says-textile-industry/article17130875.ece>

Knitwear exporters disappointed over low allocation for rebate of State levies The Hindu February 2, 2017

Tirupur: Knitwear exporters in the Tirupur cluster are disappointed over the inadequate allocation of funds in the Union Budget for Rebate of State Levies (ROSL) for garment exports, a key scheme introduced on September 20, 2016.

Similarly, they are concerned over the lack of thrust given to adequately fund the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana, a scheme that was envisaged during 2016-17 financial year to incentivise employers for generating employment.

At the same time, the industrialists and technocrats were cheerful over the focus given in the Budget to enhance the viability of the micro, small and medium-scale enterprises and start-up ventures by giving sops like Income Tax reduction and exemptions.

Raja Shanmugam, the president of Tirupur Exporters Association, said that though Rs. 1,555 crore had been earmarked towards the allotment of ROSL for the 2017-18 fiscal, to offset the State Value Added Tax against Rs. 400 crore allocated for the period between October 1, 2016, and March 31, 2017, it was insufficient for multiple reasons.

“Why the present allocation is not enough is that the total apparel exports from the country between October 1, 2016, and March 31 this year, would be around Rs. 53,000 crore. An average rebate of three per cent will itself work out to Rs. 1,590 crore. “Adding to that, made-up articles have also been included now to avail of the benefits under ROSL scheme”, he added.

For the MSMEs, the Budget proposes to reduce the Income Tax slab from 30 per cent to 25 per cent for annual turnover up to Rs. 50 crore.

“This move will make the predominant MSMEs in Tirupur cluster vibrant”, said S. Dhananjayan, a chartered accountant and consultant to various industrial bodies.

He added that enhancement of allocation to Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) bank from Rs 1.32 lakh crore to Rs. 2.44 lakh crore for the next financial year, would benefit clusters like Tirupur



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[http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/
Knitwear-exporters-disappointed-over-low-allocation-for-rebate-of-
State-levies/article17130873.ece](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/Knitwear-exporters-disappointed-over-low-allocation-for-rebate-of-State-levies/article17130873.ece)

Reduction in corporate tax a boon to garments sector

The new Indian Express February 3, 2017

Tirupur: The trade bodies of the garments sector in Tirupur have expressed mostly welcoming notes to the union budget presented by the finance minister, on Wednesday

During a press meet held in the city after the budget was presented at the parliament, the president of the Tirupur Exporters Association (TEA), Raja M Shanmugam, stated that the 5 percent reduction in corporate tax for the companies with annual turnover less than Rs. 50 crore will be beneficial to the apparel and allied sector in Tirupur as majority of the business units in the cluster fell below that mark. Raja has represented the apparel sector in the pre-budget consultation meeting with jaitley, last November.

“The reduction, from 8 percent to 6 percent, in the rate of presumptive tax for companies with turnover less than 2crore too will benefit the apparel sector.” He added.

Allocation of 1 lakh crore for affordable housing and Rs. 2,200 for skill development of labourers will help the Tirupur region to meet the long term needs of the sector, including housing scheme for workers and the establishment of a skill development centre in Tirupur.



When the committee of small and mini companies will meet? – waiting for the approval of industrial complex

Dinamalar February 5, 2017

Tirupur: The industrialists of Tirupur have prepared draft to found the industrial complex centres for the garments companies and the knitting companies in Tirupur.

The dream of the Tirupur garments manufactures is to reach the business target of R.1 lakh crore. On the basis of it, the new schemes have been prepared. Various companies of the similar brand production of garments must come together and found the industrial estates to serve this purpose.

As an initial stage, the industrial estates for the garments and knitting companies must be founded for which the plan is prepared. The new industrial estates will be comprised of sophisticated printing machines, label making machines, technical bleaching methods and the infrastructures suitable for the sample preparation. Again, it is also included the garments complexes, new types of knitting machines, training centre, hostel and workshop facilities.

The industrial welfare committee has prepared a draft valuing of Rs. 15 crore for the foundation of garments estate. Again, it has also prepared another draft valuing of Rs.18 crores for the formation of knitting estates. Both the drafts have been submitted to the government. The contribution of central government in each draft is Rs. 12 crore as per the drafts. The drafts have been sent to the small and mini industrial department for the approval by the state government. Hoping to get the approval of the department at the earliest the lands required for the estates have been purchased.

A certain clarifications have been demanded the small and mini companies department related to the industrial committee formation for which the industrialists have answered.

But, the special committee of small and mini companies department is not yet met. After the approval of the committee only, the coordinated industrial estate can be established. So, they are waiting for the approval of department.

Vijayakumar, the general secretary of exporters association said:

“To fill up the technical gaps seen among the companies in the garments production the draft for the establishment of knitting and garments estates the required drafts have been prepared and submitted for the approval. The experts in the small and mini industrial department have raised a certain question for which we have answered. Since the standing committee is not met together so far the approval for the establishment of estates is delayed. After the receipt of approval the works for the infrastructure construction will be started. The detailed reports for the establishment of designer estate and power loom industrial estates in Palldam have been prepared and both of them are also submitted for the approval. Next to this researches have been made to found the accessories for the imported garments as to enable to manufacture in our country.



Tirupur industrialists seek better clarity on EPCG scheme **The Hindu February 18, 2017**

Tirupur: Lack of clarity with respect to availing of zero duty imports under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme, despite some welcome amendments made in the scheme in September last to include job working units too, is bothering the industrialists in Tirupur knitwear cluster.

The problem now been encountered is that even after the changes allowing a person who runs a unit that carry out job works for the exports avail the zero duty benefits for machinery import by simply getting classified as ‘Common Service Provider’, its jurisdiction remains unclear.

Guidelines

“Generalised guidelines that the ‘Common Service Provider’ units located in Town of Export Excellence been eligible for the zero duty benefits, is presently giving room for different sets of interpretations by the authorities dealing with indirect taxes while identifying the ‘Common Service Providers’ for the purposes under the EPCG scheme”, pointed out Tirupur Exporters’ Association president Raja Shanmugam.

A purple thought bubble with the word "Link" inside, positioned above a green banner.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/tirupur-industrialists-seek-better-clarity-on-epcg-scheme/article17323395.ece>

The contention of the 'Tirupur Inc.' is that a cluster has the production chain spread to immediate periphery of the town limits, if one go by corporation/municipality jurisdiction, due to sheer large number of units covering different segments like dyeing, knitting, embroidery, compacting, printing, calendaring and labelling.

Clarity in guidelines

"In such circumstances, better clarity in guidelines enabling the entire units coming under one production cluster as a single entity to avail the benefits of EPCG scheme is the need of the hour so that segments like apparel printing are heavily dependent on imported machines", said T.R. Srikanth, president of Tirupur Export Knit Printers Association.

Mr. Shanmugam added that the Union Government needed to address the issues raised by the industrialists on a war-footing to ensure competitiveness of the cluster as a whole.



Illegal operation of apparel production from residential buildings posing threat - District administration warns of action if violation is noticed

The Hindu February 27, 2017

Tirupur: The clandestine operation of apparel production related activities from residential buildings is posing threats to the environment as majority of such units were involved in processing and discharging of untreated effluents into the open and drains.

Such units are also causing concerns to the people in residential areas as large number of migrant labourers were employed there without their personal data or past criminal record been verified.

Despite the seriousness of the situation, the authorities were not able to effectively curb these activities even though some units, specifically confined to dyeing, bleaching, washing and printing of fabrics, were caught at intervals.

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board's District Environmental Engineer (Tirupur North) K. Elankumaran pointed out that the responsibility of detecting the units functioning from residential buildings rest with the Corporation administration in the case of Tirupur knitwear cluster.

"The district coordination committee constituted to look into the pollution issues has now decided to immediately disconnect the power supply to the houses if at all any unit was found functioning in such buildings.

A purple thought bubble graphic with the word "Link" inside it.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/illegal-operation-of-apparel-production-from-residential-buildings-posing-threat/article17374333.ece>

“However, that is possible only when there has been an apparent pollution caused by discharge of untreated effluents into the open got noticed.

The regular checks to unearth such units Corporation administration”, he said.

Vanchipalayam K. Durai, a farmer and secretary of Tirupur Groundwater Protection Associations, feels that the lack of coordination between different departments was helping people to run units in residential buildings.

“Catching of such units is happening only when complaints from people become frequent.

The Corporation officials, if wanted, can easily catch these units as they have zone level officers and they could easily detect the diversion of drinking water supplied for wet processing activities. Many of these units have managed to obtain multiple water connections”, he added.



Women workers suffer from the lack of sufficient space for the accommodation - problems in the Tirupur garments companies

Daily Thanthi, February 6, 2017

Tirupur: Many lakhs of workers are employed in the garments companies meant for the export market as well as the local market. A considerable number of workers among them are from the other district as well as the other states. They are residing either in the rented houses or in the hostels belonged to the companies. Among them the woman workers are seen in a large number.

As a result of it, the numbers of rented houses are being increased. The house owners are also increasing the house rent in accordance with the coming of workers to Tirupur. So, the major portion of the worker's salary is paid as the house rent. So, the coming of new workers to Tirupur decreased. Again, many companies have arranged hostels meant for men and women separately within their premises. By making assurance of this facility, the workers are beginning to come to the companies with the hostels. But, the accommodation problem continues to exist because they cannot manage to provide sufficient space to stay there in. as per the version of trade unionists the workers are seriously suffering from the accommodation problem in the hostel rooms. So, the trade unionists have made complaints against the companies.

Relating to this, they said:

Many companies advertise that they provide hostel facilities for male workers and female

workers separately. Among them only a few can give protection and suitable room for their workers. but, many companies are giving importance to the money making business rather than the workers welfare such companies are compelling the woman workers is a large number in the small rooms. Because of no other going the woman workers continue their works. Sometimes they will have to face a heavy problem. Taking into consideration of the issue, the management of each company must take necessary steps.



Effortful steps to the industrialisation in the southern district Daily Thanthi February 6, 2017

Tiruppur: Many thousands of governments companies are at works in Tiruppur. Again, lakhs of workers are engaged in the manufacturing activities of garments. Because of various reasons there is an unexpected shortage of workers ever during the past months in the earlier period thousands of workers came from various parts of Tamilnadu to Tiruppur in search of employment. But, now the rush of workers to Tiruppur is becoming lesser.

By making use of this, opportunity the agents bring the workers from the northern states to manage the critical situation. Even then the shortage of workers cannot be managed. As a result of this, the business persons are unable to reach their target in the garments production. Moreover, there are lot of problems in the appointment of northern state workers especially to maintain the law and order including the language issues, so, the owner of Tiruppur garments companies must come forward to many efforts in the appointment of labourers with in Tamilnadu. Thus, they are making efforts to do so.

The water available in Tiruppur is suitable for the manufacturing of garments, dyeing, printing and blocking processes. So the industrial entrepreneurs are interested to invest their capital in Tiruppur. At this juncture, they have decided to toward their industries in places nearly Thirunelveli, Tuticorin and Kanyakumari. Moreover, they can easily collect the workers for their industries. As a first stage, they are involved in the survey of water facility and the transport activities. So, it is learnt that the garments companies will be founded in the southern districts at the earliest finally they are easily manage the shortage of workers in the garments industry.



Labour Department elicits views on employment of women workers in textile mills The Hindu February 8, 2017

Coimbatore: Representatives of trade unions and textile mill associations have expressed their views and demands related to employment of women workers in textile mills in the State at separate meetings conducted by the Labour Department here recently.

Sources in textile mill associations said representatives of five associations took part in the meeting. Several international brands buy textile products from Tamil Nadu and some

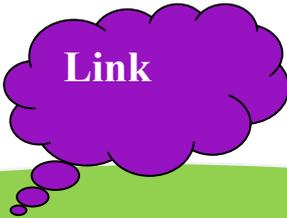
of them have agreements with their suppliers on the code of conduct that should be adopted at the manufacturing facilities. The other units here follow the laws of the Union and State Governments. Hence, the Government should ensure implementation of these rules and should not insist on the norms demanded by the international buyers, the industry representatives had said. The Government and industry associations should also recognise the sets of code of conduct brought out by a couple of industrial associations for the spinning and garment making units.

There were suggestions for compliance monitoring committees. The sources said that however, what was essential was also a change in mindset among the mills. All the units should have a policy not to employ child workers or adolescent age group women. The Government and buyers should recognise the norms suggested by the industry associations and support it, they said.

Trade union sources said they had insisted that the workers should be allowed to move out of the mill premises after their shift hours. They should not be asked to stay at hostels within the mill premises.

The State Government should form a committee to fix minimum wages for all the workers employed in textile mills but do not come under the apprentice category. There were also suggestions to call for tripartite meetings, involving the Government officials, trade union members and those from the mill management.

A meeting of the regional-level joint action committee of the textile mill unions to be held here this weekend is also expected to discuss these issues said the union sources.



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<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/Labour-Department-elicits-views-on-employment-of-women-workers-in-textile-mills/article17244835.ece>



Child Labour

Pitiable conditions of the child laborers being appointed in the garments companies – district administration must take action against it

Daily Thanthi February 13, 2017

Tirupur: Lakhs of laborers are employed in the garments companies within the radius of Tirupur. On account of various reasons the number of laborers belonging to Tamil Nadu is decreasing. To continue the same, hundreds of workers from the northern states are coming to Tirupur everyday by making use of this opportunity the agents bring the workers on the contract basis. All these workers are being appointed in various companies with no inquiries. So, the child laborers are being employed not only in Tirupur city but also in various places around it. But many companies appoint the child laborers by mentioning the shortages of laborers as the main reason. Therefore, as per the information from the reliable sources that the child laborers in Tirupur are increasing on a large scale. So, the district administration must take necessary steps to prevent the child laborers and also take action against the companies which have already appointed the child laborers.

Thus said, the trade unionists of Tirupur.

Migration

'Labour migration rose to 90 lakh over last 5 years'

The Hindu February 1, 2017

New Delhi: The inter-state migration of workers in India has increased substantially to 90 lakh annually between 2011-16 compared to the previous years, according to the Economic Survey 2016-17.

The survey arrived at a much larger estimate of labour migration in India by analysing census data of 2011 and railway passenger traffic in the unreserved category between 2011-16.

“The first-ever estimate of internal work-related migration using railways data for the period 2011-16 indicates an annual average flow of close to 9 million (90 lakh) people between the states,” according to the Survey. Inter-state labour mobility average was between 50–65 lakh people in the 2001-2011 period, yielding an inter-state migrant population of about 6 crore and an inter-district migration as high as 8 crore, according to a new Cohort-based Migration Metrics.

“Both these estimates are significantly greater than the annual average number of about 3.3 million (33 lakh) suggested by successive censuses and higher than previously estimated by any study,” the Survey noted.

The acceleration of migration was particularly high for women and increased at nearly twice the rate of male migration in the 2000s, according to the Survey.

“The patterns of migration observed conform to priors – less affluent states and districts evince higher out-migration and rich metropolises attract large inward flows of labour.”

The largest recipient of migrant workers was the Delhi region, which accounted for more than half of migration in 2015-16, while Uttar Pradesh and Bihar together accounted for half of total out-migrants, as per the survey.

“Over time, there has been a shift towards the southern states, reflecting the opening up of new migration corridors in recent years,” it said.



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<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/%E2%80%9898Labour-migration-rose-to-90-lakh-over-last-5-years%E2%80%99/article17125946.ece>





Environment

Villagers oppose garments printing unit **The new Indian Express February 7, 2017**

Tirupur: The residents of a few villages in Chengapalli panchayat near Uthukuli in Tirupur district have appealed to the government not to allow a private firm to set up its garments printing unit in their area as it would pollute their groundwater table. According to the villagers of Kadapalayam, Kuttaikattu pudur and adjacent hamlets, a private firm has appealed to various government departments to allow a garment printing unit in the panchayat. Villagers said dye effluents will be released into the ground by the unit and permitting it will pollute the groundwater table.

Good responses to the bio wash garments – being manufactured in Tirupur Daily Thanthi February 9, 2017

Tirupur: Thousands of export and local market garments companies are being managed within the limits of Tirupur. Thousands of tons of garments are being manufactured there in every day and supplied through the transport. The changes have been made every day in the manufacturing of garments meant for the markets. To follow the same, there is a good reception for the bio-wash processed garments in the markets, in accordance with the garments company owners.

Related to this they have said

Regarding the garments business we are making changes as per the exceptions of consumers in the manufacturing of garments. The dyeing process is a great challenge in the manufacturing of garments. While, using the garments meant for local market the dye is stick on the body.

Again, while washing the garments a large quantity of dye expelled. So, the consumers are hesitating to buy such garments. Therefore, the garments manufacturers nowadays are applied dyes and then washed and ironed before the packing of the material for the supply. Therefore, the consumer does not face any problem in making use of them. On account of this reason the consumers not only in India but in other countries are interested in the purchase of bio-wash garments and wear. The buyers are also giving orders to the manufacturers for these items of garments considering this practice; most of the garments companies are involved in the manufacture of bio wash garments with good quality in such a way to attract the consumers.



Effluent water discharging into Noyyal River – Pollution Control Board takes no action Dhinakaran Februaury 4, 2017

Tirupur: The effluent water being discharged from the dyeing factories is mixed in the Noyyal River. But, the pollution control board does not take any steps to prevent it.

Nearly 729 dyeing units are at function in Tirupur. The agriculture of Orathapalayam areas had filed a case against them in the High Court of Chennai by charging that the effluent water discharged from them is polluting the water meant for the agricultural purposes. Responding to it, the High Court of Chennai had issues an order on January 28th in 2012 which was a great shock to the dyeing factory owners. As per the order the effluent water discharged from the dyeing factories must be treated to the zero degree by the recycling process. The dyeing factories which do not to do so must be closed down.

To continue the same, the officials of pollution control board took action on 2nd February of the same year and closed down the dyeing and bleaching factories which did not follow the High Court order. Again, they have disconnected the power supply to such factories. At this juncture a few owners of dyeing factories founded the infrastructure suitable for the zero degree treatment of effluent water being discharged from them.

The pollution control board which inspected such dyeing units permitted to function so they began to function. By following the same method, a few more dyeing factories also **got**

permission to continue the processes. The owners who were unable to continue the process in person, joined together had founded the effluent water treatment units counting 20 in the areas known such as Arulpuram, Sullikkadu, Manikkapuram, Kuppandampalayam, Karaipudhur, Rayapuram, Mannarai, Angeripalayam, Andipalayam, Murugampalayam, Veerapandi, Chinnakkarai, Sirupooluvapatty, Mangalam, Kasipalayam, Periyayipalayam and Vettuvapalayam and carried on their works.

All of these dyeing factories are being monitored by the pollution control board now and then and the prepared reports are being sent to the head office in Chennai.

At the same time, there are certain dyeing units secretly involved in the processes of which and continue the works. But, the officials of Pollution Control Board do not pay their attention to take any action against it. The effluent water discharged from the dyeing factories was flowing down yesterday in the Noyyal River near the Diamond Theatre in Tirupur. It was a great shock to the legally operating dyeing factory owners



Farmers' associations call for closure of dyeing units till drought is over The Hindu February 7, 2017

Tirupur: Alleging that the dyeing units in Tirupur knitwear cluster were frequently violating zero liquid discharge (ZLD) norms in effluent treatment process, farmers' associations have called upon the State Government to close the dyeing units in Tirupur till the drought was over.

"At a time when the farmers and people are struggling to make use of whatever little water available in River Noyyal, the chemicals discharged into the River are posing threat to agriculture yield and to health. This is the reason why we ask for closure of dyeing units till drought phase is over," Federation of Tamil Nadu Agriculturists Association secretary C. Nallasami told reporters here.

He termed the dyeing industry's claim of the units adhering to ZLD norms as a blatant lie.

"This is evident from the fact that many registered units were caught at intervals for indiscriminate discharge of effluents into River Noyyal and into the open since the Madras High Court insisted on following ZLD norms.

Even now, the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) level in water of River Noyyal stretch in areas near Kangayam have been as high as 5,000 parts per million (ppm)", he said.

The farmers' associations accused that many dyeing units were clandestinely discharging the effluents into the open places and water bodies especially during night hours even now.

"The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has been taking only selective action against erring units", said Mr. Nallasami.



Four dyeing factories illegally functioned were demolished and removed Theekkadir February 19, 2017

Pallipalayam: Nearly 4 numbers of illegally functioned dyeing units that affected the environment were demolished and cleared.

A large number of dyeing factories without effluent water treatment centre in Pallipalayam and kumarapalayam areas are at function without required permission. To prevent these illegal activities the officials of pollution control board are making investigations and demolish and clear the unapproved dyeing factories.

As per the practice, Ravichandran, Namakkal district environment engineer, Palanisamy, the flying squad officer and the other office bearers altogether suddenly inspected, the Elanthakuttai and Poosarikadu near Pallipalayam.

On the occasion they identified four number of dyeing factories without effluent water centre and the government permission and demolished them with the help of poklane machine and then cleaned. Again, they have sealed the factory in such a way that they do not function thereafter. Further, they had demolished the water tanks, machineries and the clothes by pouring more and more quality of dyes. Since, the inspection like this continue in the future also and necessary action will be taken against those do not sincerely follow the rules and regulations.

Thus, the officials of the pollution control board said.



Employers of 'first-time employees' in dilemma over PF contribution The Hindu February 5, 2017

Tirupur: The employers of 29,671 'first-time workers' recruited into apparel export units in Tirupur cluster and obtained Universal Account Number (UAN) for Employees Provident Fund coverage subsequent to rolling out of Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protasahan Yojana (PMRPY) on August 9, 2016, are in a predicament.

Lack of funds

Lack of funds allocation towards PMRPY for the current fiscal year and a paltry budgetary allocation of Rs. 200 crore for 2017-18 financial year for the whole country towards bearing of the employers' contribution in the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) by the Government under the said scheme for first three years of rookie workers, have raised worries.

EPF

The PMRPY was envisaged to incentivise the employers for generation of fresh employment with the Government committing to bear the 8.33 % of the 12 % employers' contribution

in the EPF in the case of general industrial units for first three years of employment of first-time workers.

In the case of apparel export sector, the government had agreed to bear the remaining 3.67 % of the 12 % employers' contribution through a special package in addition to the 8.33 % portion.

Annual needs

Even the Rs. 200 crore earmarked for 2017-18 fiscal for all sectors would not be enough considering that even the annual needs for clusters like Tirupur itself runs close to the said figures.

"The entrepreneurs here will end up bearing the entire employers' contribution of fresh employees if adequate fund allocation is not made immediately towards incentivising our efforts taken to give employment to new set of people" said G. R. Senthilvel, secretary of Tirupur Exporters and Manufacturers Association.

Thus he said in his speech. The head masters of the Government Higher second, elementary school officials, the regional development centre trainers of teachers, supervisors and assistants were participated.



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