

SAVE



News Letter

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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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SOCIAL AWARENESS AND VOLUNTARY EDUCATION (SAVE)

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Garments

Textile industry seeks relaxation in social security schemes “Employees are reluctant to contribute” The Hindu March 4, 2017

Coimbatore: The textile industry here has sought relaxations in some of the social security schemes implemented for textile workers.

In a memorandum submitted jointly by 18 textile associations to Union Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya during his visit to the city recently, the industry said the labour attrition rate had gone up in the recent years, especially among migrant workers and, during the first few months of employment. Hence, employees were reluctant to contribute for social security schemes such as Employees’ Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance Scheme. Hence, the schemes should be implemented for the employees only after six months of joining work. The Central Board of Trustees had proposed enhancement of wage ceiling limit from the existing Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000. This should be deferred as it would be an additional burden to the employer in the present situation.

There should be a separate legislation for employment of women workers. Women were employed in different sectors and even in night shifts in some States. However, there was no proper guidance on employment of women. “A separate and comprehensive enactment for employment of women workers in the industries is needed,” according to the memorandum.

In textile mills, majority of the workers were women and many of them came to work after completing their domestic chores. They found it difficult to work for eight hours and preferred three or six hour shifts. The laws could be amended so that the workers and the industries benefited. Women could be compensated on a pro-rata basis of minimum wages or the applicable occupational wages.

The Government should permit flexible working hours for women. Though the Minimum Wages Act was Central Government legislation, it was fixed by State Governments. The existing rates varied between States and even within a State for different sectors.

An expert committee with representatives of the industry and the stakeholders should be constituted to recommend uniform minimum wages for the textile industry across the country, the associations said.

Link

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/textile-industry-seeks-relaxation-in-social-security-schemes/article17405469.ece>

How to pick-up the pearls in the deep water like banian industry – Rathinam who is unsheltered in the hard works

Dinamalar March 5, 2017

Tirupur: The Sankara Exports Company started its journey in the year 2000 for the purpose of exporting the garments to foreign markets along with the support of production of garments for the local markets.

A group of friends comprising four persons altogether initiated a garments manufacturing company in the name of 'High-Tech'. The Sankara Exports Company was initiated by separation from the 'High - Tech' company.

Both Israel and France are the important markets for the garments manufactured in this new company. The better prospects of this business are the opportunities to supply various kinds of garments to different kinds of people including the military.

Amidst the companies that develop the infrastructure and extend the introduction of modern technology, the Sankara Export Company with its small infrastructure manufactures the garments by providing orders to the job work companies.

Muthurathinam, the Managing Director of this company is also elected as the President of the Tirupur Exporters and Manufacturers Association (TEAMA). When asked about the main objective of his company in the future Muthurathinam replied:

"I started Sankara Exporters Company in 2000 with an investment of Rs. 40 lakhs and a number of 200 tailoring machines. Again it was because of the shortage of labourers. We reduced the number of tailoring machines. At present, we own only 40 numbers of seat tailoring machines. There are mills, knitting, dyeing, printing, embroidery companies on a large scale in Tirupur and they are all more than the requirements. So, we have minimized the infrastructure of our own by reducing the expenses towards the purchase of machines and concentrate on the manufacturing processes alone.

"Usually, we get orders from the buyers of France and Israel and place the same orders to the job work companies and export them after the production of garments.

"There are good numbers of job works companies depending upon us and also they provide employment to a large number of labourers. The value of our export business deals is 7 crore rupees. Our main aim is to increase our business by 20 percent every year. There are business opportunities in the markets of America and Europe. Also, we make efforts to get orders from the buyers of those countries.

"There are a large number of people unemployed in the Southern Districts, whereas we have a shortage of labourers here. To manage this issue, we have planned to set up a garments company in Valliyur by uniting 20 companies. We have decided to set up a section of 200 power tables within. Also, we have started the manufacturing activities to meet the requirements of local markets. Again, we manufacture high quality garments, called 'TUKSEN', for men. Since we handle the orders required for the export

markets as well as for the local markets, we receive orders for the manufacture of garments throughout the year. The hiking prices of yarn are the main drawbacks in the garments industry.

“Our business will become more and more prosperous despite the various disadvantages because we will make use of all the efforts. A lot of wonderful opportunities are seen in the garments industry. Young entrepreneurs must take initiatives with the required experiences and technical knowhow rather than the investment.

“Both the central and state governments must concentrate on this textile industry which earns foreign exchange and provides employment opportunities. The countries for the labourers and the hostels for the female workers must be constructed. Export must be increased with the control of the prices of cotton. Concessions must be given to us as to enable us to compete with the other countries.”

Concession for the export must not be cancelled – Tirupur industrialists demand

Daily Thanthi March 14, 2017

Tirupur: Tirupur’s garment business is operated in accordance with the government’s plans. Also, the loan facility schemes are supporting the promotion of the referred business. Apart from this, the central government provides various concessions from the manufacturing activity to the exportation of finished products. However, the government is not interested in providing concessions along with the tax exemption. Therefore, the representatives of the Tirupur Exporters’ Association (TEA) have been making demands to consider the exemption of export tax. At this juncture, it is learnt that many concessions being provided to the exporters will be cancelled and so the garment business will be severely affected. Relating to this, they said:

“Concerning the Tirupur garment business, our contribution is merely 25 percent. Moreover, we are doing the business with the support of the central and the state governments. By this time, the experts of the referred business say that the export concession will be cancelled. This is a great shock to all of us. The necessary steps must be taken against this at the earliest. We are all in trouble for a long time on account of various issues. Hence, by taking into consideration the welfare of labourers and businesspersons, the government must come forward to support our business.”

Special medical insurance for the labourers of garments industry – Tirupur Exporters’ Association has made arrangements

Daily Thanthi March 17, 2017

Tirupur: Tirupur Exporters’ Association (TEA) has arranged to provide special medical insurance to the labourers employed in the garments companies.

A special medical insurance scheme has been introduced in the name of ‘Mediplus 356’

worth Rs. 1 lakhs. Under the medical insurance scheme, TEA will pay one rupee per day to each labourer for one year (averaging Rs. 360 per worker annually). The inaugural function of introducing the scheme was held yesterday at TEA's office.

Raja Shanmugam, President of TEA, presided over the event. Officials from TEA including Somasundaram (Committee President), Vijayakumar (General Secretary), and Mohan (Treasurer) also took part in the event. In addition, insurance corporation officers and other representatives participated.

As a first stage about 1,000 labourers were subscribed to this new special insurance scheme since it is a group insurance. It is essentially important that the beneficiary must be working in a company. The insurance coverage can be extended to the wife and children of the employed person. The family members, whether they live in another state or elsewhere, can receive coverage under the medical insurance scheme. The insurance scheme will be affective on the day after the registration.

The beneficiary who happens to go to the hospital need not meet the medical expenditure up to Rs. 1 lakh for one year. Should the beneficiary happen to be affected by any accident and remain unable to work, the beneficiary can receive compensation of Rs. 1,000 per week for the loss occurred. If the beneficiary would become permanently handicapped in the accident, he or she will be paid an amount of Rs. 1 lakh as compensation. Finally, if the beneficiary were to suffer a fatal accident, either his or her family members or successor could receive Rs. 1 lakh as compensation.

At this event, the special medical insurance scheme for the middle-level officials and the owners of the garments company was also introduced.

This information is conveyed by Raja Shanmugam, the President of TEA.

Knitwear exports from Tirupur back to robust growth The Hindu March 18, 2017

Tirupur: The latest figures on readymade garment exports from the country till February end give something to cheer for the Tirupur knitwear exporters as the exports have grown robustly both in rupee and dollar terms after a sluggish start during the fiscal.

Annual target

The situation has given back the hope to Tirupur apparel exporters of meeting the annual target of Rs. 25,000 crore they set for the current financial year.



<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/knitwear-exports-from-tirupur-back-to-robust-growth/article17525027.ece>

The official data accessed by The Hindu shows that the readymade garment exports from the country (both knitwear and woven together) stood at Rs. 1,04,443.96 crore for the period between April 1, 2016, and February 28, 2017.

It showed a growth of 3.5% in terms of rupee and 0.58 per cent in terms of dollar when compared to the same period during 2015-16 fiscal.

It should be noted that the growth was negative in terms of dollar during the first three quarters of the current fiscal till December 31.

Of the total exports till February end, the knitwear alone contributed Rs. 50,550.87 crore.

Tirupur share

In the case of exports from Tirupur knitwear cluster, garments worth Rs. 23,253 crore were exported between April 1 and February 28 this fiscal after the exports stood at just around Rs. 16,600 crore till December 31 causing some anxiety to the exporting fraternity.

“Now with sudden surge in exports, we are hopeful of meeting the targets of Rs. 25,000 crore comfortably by March 31. If not for the market slowdown happened subsequent to the Britain’s decision to exit European Union and few other factors, the cluster could have reached an annual turnover of Rs. 28,000 crore,” said Tirupur Exporters Association president Raja Shanmugam.

Dyeing Issues

Reception for the exemption of service tax to the public effluent water centres The Hindu (Tamil) March 3, 2017

Tirupur: The proprietors of dyeing factories received with appreciation the decision to provide an exemption of service tax to the public effluent water treatment centre. By establishing 18 effluent water treatment centres in Tirupur, about 450 dyeing factories altogether are benefitting.

It is notable that it was because of improperly discharging the effluent water, that a case was filed in the High Court. As a result of the case, the culpable factories in Tirupur were closed down in 2010.

At this juncture, an amount of Rs. 200 crore without interest was sanctioned on behalf of the central and state governments to promote the industry. Again, on behalf of industrialists the additional loan was borrowed from the banks. By making use of the total amount of rupees referred to above, the effluent water treatment centres were established and operated with the zero degree effluent water treatment process.

S. Nagarajan, President of the Dyers Association of Tirupur (DAT), stated that:

“Because of the operation of the public effluent water treatment centres, water pollution is prevented. Taking into consideration the industrial development, the government had introduced the service tax in 2012. Again, the central government cancelled the service tax in 2015.

“Even then, the circulars to the public effluent water treatment centres were sent insisting on payment of the service tax for the period of July 1, 2012 to March 31, 2015. So, we demanded the central government to cancel the service tax to be paid.

“As a response to our demand the central government has made a write off of the service tax valuing Rs. 60 crore just two days ago. We thank our Prime Minister Modi and the central government.”

Protest against giving water to dyeing unit The Hindu March 12, 2017

Erode: Residents of Ondikaranpalayam, near Villarasampatti in the city, submitted a petition to the district administration on Friday complaining about surreptitious diversion of groundwater to a dyeing unit. They alleged that the diversion was made from a borewell dug on a site in the vicinity of LBP canal for which approval had been secured for house construction.

The petition also cited a few other instances of the illegal activity in adjacent localities, drawing the district administration's attention to the hardships they were facing due to drinking water scarcity. The residents sought steps for mitigation .

Three dyeing units found polluting water bodies The Hindu March 27, 2017

Tirupur: The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board officials have caught three dyeing units, all of which have been member units of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), during checks over the last few days, for polluting the water bodies through indiscriminate discharge of effluents.

The TNPCB has instructed the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation to disconnect the power supply to the units as a punishment for the violations.

Board District Environment Engineer K. Elankumaran said that of the three units caught for violation, two were linked to the Murugampalayam CETP and the third one was attached to the Rayapuram CETP.

Link

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/three-dyeing-units-found-polluting-water-bodies/article17669670.ece>

The checks on the basis of complaints revealed that the units were discharging the untreated effluents during the night hours, added the officials.

The dyeing unit attached to Rayapuram CETP was discharging effluent directly into the River Noyyal, while the other two units were discharging the effluents into one of the tributaries of River Noyyal.

Reacting to the detection of clandestine effluent discharge during dark hours, the farmers' community pointed out that the attempts of dyeing fraternity to create the 'green image' claiming that they were sticking completely to zero liquid discharge norms in effluent treatment process have been busted yet again.

Spinning Mill Issues

About 325 spinning mills on strike demand to impose ban on the comber cotton - yarn production valuable for Rs. 25 crores was withheld

Dinakaran March 11, 2017

Kovai: The textile industry in our country is heavily affected on account of the hiked prices of comber cotton and yarn prices. As a result of it, about 325 open end spinning mills in Tamil Nadu began to go on strike yesterday demanding the government to impose a ban on the export of comber cotton. Hence, the yarn production valuable for Rs. 25 crore was withheld.

There are 485 open end spinning mills in Tamil Nadu. Among them about 325 mills procure comber cotton from the mills category and are involved in yarn production.

The total weight of yarn being produced per day is about 5.60 lakhs kgs. The power loom textile manufacturers in Tamil Nadu who purchase the yarn produce cloths by means of their 5 lakhs power looms.

The prices of comber cotton being sold by the middle/big textile mills have been continuously increasing from the month of October 2016. The cotton, which sold for the price of Rs. 62 per day, was increased to Rs. 72 in the month of November, to Rs. 82 in December, Rs. 85 in January 2017, and Rs. 92 in February. At present, the same is sold for an amount of Rs. 99. In summary, over a period of five months the price of comber cotton has increased by Rs. 37. As a result of the increase in the price of comber cotton, the prices of yarn have increased by Rs. 15 (from Rs. 125 to Rs. 140). The increase in price cannot be compensated for by the increase of the comber cotton price. Therefore, the yarn is sold at a low price and thus a loss is being incurred. The main reason for the increase in prices of comber cotton is its exportation. Hence, the 325 open end spinning

mills in Tamil Nadu condemned the price increase and demanded to impose a ban on the export of comber cotton by entering into a token strike for one day.

Regarding this, Jeyabal and Arulmozhi, the President and Secretary respectively of the Tamil Nadu Open End Spinning Mills Association (OSMA) issued a joint statement that said:

“Because of the insufficient income of the power loom manufacturers for their manufacturing products, they are going on strike from the 1st of this month [March 2017]. As a result, the production decreased by half during the past nine days in the open end spinning mills. We have entered into a token strike for one day by demanding to impose a ban on the export of comber cotton. The production of yarn valuable for Rs. 25 crore was withheld.

“The open end spinning mills will be operating again from the 11th of [March 2017]. However spinning mills cannot be revived until the production of cloths in the power loom sector has been regained. To manage this trivial condition both the central and state government must take necessary steps.”

Fall in cotton yarn exports worries textile mills - The exports fell by 11.6 % in volume and 15.5 % in value
The Hindu March 14, 2017

Coimbatore: For textile mills here, 2016 was a year that saw a drop in exports and price realisation for cotton yarn. According to data available at the national-level, cotton yarn exports fell by 11.6 % in volume and 15.5 % in value during January - December 2016 compared to the same period the previous year.

The unit value realisation during 2016 dropped 15.6 %, from 2.82 \$ to 2.38 \$. Overall exports from India during January - December last year registered 1.4% decline compared to the previous year.

According to industry sources, cotton yarn exports from India were mainly to China and it started declining during the last couple of years.

Competition

The competition from Pakistan for Indian fabric in the international market affected the domestic weaving sector and this brought down the demand for yarn too.



Link

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/three-dyeing-units-found-polluting-water-bodies/article17669670.ece>

While India has the capacity to produce 400 million kg of cotton yarn a month, the current production is 330 million kg to 250 million kg. Just about 100 million kg is exported. "Exports can go up to 180 million kg." The mills have faced a tough year and will be in financial trouble if there is no support from the Government, say the sources.

"Even now the price for cotton yarn in the domestic market is Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 more compared to the international price. Indian cotton yarn attracts 4% duty in most markets. That is why we have been seeking incentives for yarn exports," said M. Senthil Kumar, chairman of Southern India Mills' Association. The Central Government should give IES (Interest Equalisation Benefit) and MEIS (Merchandise Exports from India Scheme) benefits for cotton yarn for at least a year, he said.

Workplace Accident

8 hurt in dyeing unit boiler blast

The New Indian Express March 15, 2017

Tirupur: A boiler blast in a private dyeing unit in Tirupur on Monday night injured eight workers.

On Monday night when the dyeing of garments materials was in progress at Vikram Process, a private dyeing unit at Kasipalayam, the soft flow dyeing boiler exploded unexpectedly. It damaged the roof of the unit and the machinery inside it. The hot water in the boiler spilled over and injured eight persons including the dyeing master, Vikram (28), who was operating the boiler.

Seven other employees of the unit – Selvendhiran (20), Dharmaraj (20), Gangadharan (24), Raja (34), Kalaiazhagan (28), Manoprabhu (22), and Manivannan (38) were also injured. They are being treated at a private hospital in the city. Vikram has been referred to the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital. Tirupur rural police booked Vikram and the manager of the unit, Ravimohan, under section 287 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery) of the Indian Penal Code.

Fire accident in a textile mills in Palladam

Daily Thanthi March 16, 2017

Palladam: Murugan Spintex is a textile mill situated in Palladam, Kamaikkanpalayam. The waste cotton being excreted in the textile mills during the production is dumped in another part of the same mill.

There was a fire accident that occurred yesterday when the waste cotton dumped therein caught on fire. The labourers who witnessed the scene tried their best to quench the fire but failed. The fire stations in Palladam were informed. In response, a

team under the head of Vivekanadan, the station officer, rushed to the spot and fought for half an hour to quench the fire.

Further inquiries are being carried out in order to find out the reasons for the fire accidents.

Labour

Five percent of increment must be increased – on the basic pay of labourer **Daily Thanthi March 27, 2017**

Tirupur: Lakhs of labourers, not only within Tamil Nadu but also from other states, are working in the garment companies within the Tirupur District. Since the labourers live in rented houses they require more facilities in accordance with the opinion of trade unionists. There is a demand to provide the labourers with sufficient facilities. Labourers also face problems due to a lack of payment of the required salary. As usual, the trade unions have joined together to fight with the industrialists for a salary increment and the trade unions have become successful at last. The trade unionists have made demands to provide the labourers with a considerable amount in salary increments.

Relating to this, the activities of labourers' permissive union expressed their opinion:

“The labourers' involvement in the promotion of garment business deserves credit because they play a dominant role in it. The excellence of the garment business relies on the efficiency of the labourers. Somehow a few garment companies pay the required salary whereas many other companies fail to do so.

“At present, we have planned to make demands with the consideration of labourers' welfare and put the same before the industrialists. Accordingly, from April 1 onwards an increment of 5% on the basic pay of labourers must be given especially to those who work on shift system and piece rate method. Companies must provide them with some more concessions such as the provision of tea supply, beta, marriage fund aid, family welfare aid insurance and an identify card. The information related to this will be sent to all the garment companies. We demand the industrialists to take the necessary steps at the earliest.”

Resolution of the maternity reform is passed **The Hindu (Tamil) March 14, 2017**

Coimbatore: Maternity leave for working women was a mere 12 weeks. A reform bill was passed on March 9 in parliament to raise the maternity leave to 26 weeks. The bill

was passed in the state assembly. The Honourable Central Minister for the Labour Welfare Department, Pandaru Thathareya, presented this information in parliament. He also pointed out that this law would be applicable to all the companies where more than 10 labourers were employed. India has become the third country to provide more maternity leave next to Canada (50 weeks) and Norway (44 weeks).

Maternity leave of six months to woman

Daily Thanthi March 18, 2017

Nowadays, women are working with dominance from ordinary level to operatives of rockets in the sky. We cannot say that a woman leaves any profession without participation. Notably, women are also making achievements in the military. In states like Tamil Nadu, 30 percent of place allocation is provided to women. However, maternity is a specific honour to women in general. During the maternity period, the women cannot come to any company. Now women working in the central government are provided with six months' leave to manage the maternity period.

As a pioneer in all aspects, Tamil Nadu had already provided six months as the maternity leave. However, on the eve of last general assembly election the late Chief Minister, Jeyalalitha, released an electoral circular to the public announcing the maternity leave period as nine months instead of six months. It has been implemented from November in the last year.

The paid maternity leave that was three months (12 weeks) was extended to 26 weeks. The same scheme of bill was passed in the upper house of parliament. At present it is also passed in the lower house of parliament. The revised bill of maternity leave scheme will benefit up to 18 lakhs of women throughout the country. It is classified that the maternity leave for the first two deliveries will be 26 weeks. About 12 weeks of maternity leave will be given to a woman in the case of third delivery.

As per the bill, a mother who adopts a child and the mother being hired will be provided maternity leave for 12 weeks. Further, it was made compulsory that a childcare home must be created in a company wherein 50 workers and above are employed. At the same time, a mother working in the company must be permitted to see her child four times per day. In situations where the majority of workers are women, for example in garment companies, it was anticipated that the provision of paid maternity leave for six months will negatively affect the production of the company. To manage the situation, companies will have to appoint some other workers. Taking into consideration the impact of paid maternity leave on the productivity of small companies, the central government must come forward to provide financial assistance to them. To avoid the expenditures on these issues the companies are not interested in providing employment to women. The central government must take necessary steps to protect women's employment opportunities.

Provision of leave for 90 days to the women under gone sexual torture in the work place - announced by the central government

Daily Thanthi March 21, 2017

Tirupur: Women who are working in offices and companies may be affected by sexual harassment from colleagues or senior officers. These women can approach the special committee to make inquiries into the matter and find a solution. The women who are becoming victimized may be threatened by the aggressors during the time that the investigations are in progress. To avoid this, women who are working in the central government are provided with 90 days of paid leave while investigations are ongoing. This arrangement has been made by the ministry of the general government's Employee's Welfare Office.

The ministry which assures the provision of leave has also announced that the leave period existing already will not be deducted. Thus, the leave period being given at present will be included in the leave period that already exists. The law of employment is reformed in such a way as to provide the 90 days' leave to the affected women employees.



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