



SAVE

Tiruppur Update

VOLUME 10

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2018

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ⇒ Garments
- ⇒ Dyeing
- ⇒ Anti Child Labour
- ⇒ ESI /PF
- ⇒ Labour
- ⇒ Trade Union

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 laborers 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 Tiruppur.

**TIRUPPUR UPDATE: A NEWSLETTER OF SAVE IS PUBLISHED BY
SOCIAL AWARENESS AND VOLUNTARY EDUCATION (SAVE)**

Chief Editor : A.Aloysius
Executive Editor : A.Irudayam and
A.Viyakulamary

No. 5, Iswarya Nagar,
Dharapuram Road, K.N.P Colony,
TirupPur-641 608, Tamilnadu, India
Ph. 0421-2428100, Fax: 0421-2428200
E-mail: savetiruppur@gmail.com /
save-ngo@eth.net / savealoy@gmail.com
Website : www.savengo.org

Garments

Exporters agreed to pay the increased rates for the knitting works Daily Thanthi June 1, 2018

Tiruppur: A large number of garment companies and their associated companies like job-work companies are being operated everywhere in the dollar city of Tiruppur. The cloths manufactured in these companies are sent for the sale to the foreign countries, outer states and other districts. The central government has implemented the GST as the common taxation throughout the country. After the new taxation, the garment industry is becoming degenerated. At the same time, the concession already provided was also reduced. The prices of raw materials are also increased. As a result of it, the industrialists are facing a lot of problems in the garment business. Since the cost of production has been increased the SIMKA and KnitMA Associates have increased the charges for the works including the knitting process. Anyhow, the garment companies have agreed to pay the increased charges. So, the industrialists of knitting process feel quite happy.

Related to this, Vivekanantha the president of SIMKA said:

At the time of production, costs towards the processes such as the manufacture of cloths, readymade dresses collar and cups have been increased. We have increased the charges in accordance with the salary increment of transport expenditures and all the other expenditures. Notably we have increased from Rs.2 to Rs. 5 in the processes of knitting and collar works per kgs. Then, the exporters refused to pay the increased charges. But, understanding the industrial crisis, 80 percent of exporters have agreed to pay the increased amount of money. Further, 20 percent of exporter have said that they would also do the same supply when fresh orders are placed.

Therefore, we are quite happy.

Thus, he said.

Tax-concession decreased by half - Garments export decreased by 14 percent - Exporters avoid the orders and labourers Lose employment Dinakaran, June 1, 2018

Coimbatore: Since, the export tax concession for the garments was reduced from 13 to 7.07 percent in the last October, the garment export is continuously decreased for the past 7 months and now the export at present is reduced to 14%.

Regarding, the readymade clothes export in the world level, the share of contribution made by India is 4% in which garments export is by 22. The share of contribution by Coimbatore is by 55%. About 4 thousand garments manufactures are involved in the business. More

than 15 lakhs of workers are employed in all of these companies. The garments valuable for Rs.25 thousand crore were exported.

Again, the garments valuable for the 26 thousand crore was exported in the last financial year of 2016-17. But, the exporters had exported the garments valuable for 24 thousand crore in the financial year of 2017-18. Again, it was in April during the earlier period of 2018-19, the value of garments exported was only 8,859 crore. While comparing it with that of the previous year it is decreased by 21.40%.

The main reason for the decrease of garments export is said to be the reduction of export tax concession by the central government. Until the last September the refundable taxes such as the duty draw back concession by 7.5%, the state tax exemption by 3.5% and the MSME tax concession by 2% totalling 13% concession were proved. But, after the implementation of GST the tax concession was reduced as 7.07%.

To the exporters ,who could not earn profits by the export, managed the garment businesses by means of provisions of taxes by the governments to avoid the receipt of orders due to the reduction of tax concession by 6% . Hence, the export business is reduced by 14% in the last 7 months. Again, the workers employed in the export companies have become unemployed due to the unemployment.

Regarding this ,Prabu Damodharan the General Secretary of Tex Preneurs expressed his views.

The concession such as the duty draw back must be implemented again at last for the period of 3 years to the affected garments exporters.

Thus he said.

Special drive to clear drawback, ROSL arrears
The Hindu June 1, 2018

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/special-drive-to-clear-drawback-rosl-arrears/article24051669.ece>

Coimbatore: The Tiruchi Customs Commissionerate, which covers Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts , is conducting a fortnight-long special drive to clear pending drawback, ROSL (Refund of State Levies), and IGST refunds.

Ashok, Commissioner of Customs - Tiruchi, had a meeting here on Thursday in this regard.

He told The Hindu that the IGST claims received by the Commissionerate so far is Rs. 94.59 crore and 88.76 % (Rs. 83.96 crore) of it has been paid. In the case of drawback, 98,636 shipping bills, for amount involving Rs. 40.02 crore, were cleared during the current financial year. The remaining bills are 4,261 for Rs. 7.33 crore.

Regarding ROSL, he said that the amount is paid whenever the respective ministry releases the fund.

An advisory was received on May 24 to clear ROSL applications till April 30. Since the implementation of GST, "We have so far paid Rs. 223 crore as ROSL and since receiving the recent advisory from the Government, we have dispersed Rs. 7.52 crore," he said.

This is a special drive with focus on IGST, drawback, and ROSL refunds.

The Inland Container Depots at Chettipalayam and Irugur and the Coimbatore Air Cargo are the three major destinations under the Commissionerate for cargo movement.

Additional personnel

The commissionerate will focus on these three by posting additional personnel depending on the cargo load, educating the people concerned to avoid errors while filing the claims.

The commissionerate takes steps to ensure that there is no delay in dispersements and is continuously educating the exporters and the cargo custodians on filing of returns, he added.

E-way bill norm relaxed to help job work sector – Textile related product exempt from Intra -State e-Way bill

The New Indian Express June 2, 2018

Tiruppur: The garment industry in Tiruppur is all happy over the exemption of textile related products from the intra state e-way bill that comes into effect on Saturday.

E-way bill for inter-state transport of goods is already in place since April 1, 2018. On Saturday, it would be rolled out for intra-state transport of goods in seven states, including Tamil Nadu.

As per the new intra-state e-way bill regulation, the exemption limit for transporting goods within the state has been increased from Rs.50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh and nearly 100 goods, many of which come under the textile sector, have been exempted from generating e-way bills. As many as 17 products and services related to yarn, fabric cotton and woven fabric and job works have been excluded.

"It is a welcome move by the state -government to give exemption to job works and services. Our association had put forth the problems faced by the industry to the government and it has made the exemption which is favourable to the Tiruppur industry which has been reeling under heavy loss," said A.Sakthivel, president of federation of Indian export organisations.

The Tiruppur industrial cluster has thousands of small job working units and the exemption has brought them huge relief.

“The manufacturing process in Tiruppur involves a minimum of 15 operations many of which are outsources. It would be extremely difficult if we had to raise e-way bills for every operation and job work. The exemption has come as a breather as the industry in a crisis due to duty drawback cut and problems in GST refund among others,” said G.R.Senthilvel, secretary, Tiruppur Exporters and Manufactures’ Association.

He also said the implementation of e-way bill is a good move as it would help plug the loopholes in the system.

‘TEAMA’ Association insists the chief minister to procure the cotton required from the central government

The Hindu (Tamil) June 2, 2018

Tiruppur: The association of ‘TEAMA’ has insisted chief minister to procure the cotton required for the Tamil Nadu.

Relating to this S.P Muthurathinam, the president of TEAMA has written a letter to Honourable chief minister K.Palanisamy. The contents of its are as the following.

About, 55% of textile mills in the national level are operated in Tamil Nadu. So, the required cotton is available in the regular prices, the yarn production will be increased with the regular prices. But, without taking the consideration of the requirements of the nation, the cotton is exported to various countries with the aim of increasing the ration of export to various countries.

As a result of it, the shortages of cotton in the Indian textile mills are being occurred. This shortage of cotton is basically artificial. So, the mills owners are continuously increasing the prices of yarns. The reduction of export concessions, GST problem and the demonization, the garment business is also becoming weakened. Again the textile industry which includes the weaving and power loom is also affected. Not only Tiruppur but also Erode, Kambam, Karur and Salem severely affected the textile production.

The life of ten lakhs of labours in Tiruppur will become questionable. The manufactures are pushed into the crisis of trouble in the textile industry. So, in relation to this issue the chief ministers of Tamil Nadu must meet the prime minister and request to find a permanent solution to this issue and protect the garment industry of Tiruppur. Also, the direct purchase of cotton from the central government must be introduced and implemented in such way to sell the yarn at regular price.

By means of this, the artificial increase of prices of yarns will be prevented. Again, the hiking prices of yarns will also be avoided.

Instead of exporting the cotton to the foreign countries, manufacturing the garments and exporting them to these countries will be more profitable and so earn more foreign exchange. Also, the employment opportunities will be given to millions of workers. Tiruppur depends on the garment business. Perhaps if this industry would be affected the

entire Tiruppur will also be affected. So, the steps must be taken very urgently to find a solution to the problems of garment manufactures of Tiruppur.

Thus, he has mentioned in the letter written to the Chief Minister.

Hosiery manufacturers to hike prices by 10%
The Hindu June 9, 2018

Tiruppur: The members of South India Hosiery Manufacturers Association (SIHMA) have unanimously decided to increase the prices of hosiery products by 10%, citing escalation in production costs due to increase in rate of raw materials and other input costs.

SIHMA president S.S. Eswaran told that the members had decided to make the prices applicable for all the domestic orders confirmed from June 15 onwards. "We are forced increase the prices of end products as there has been abnormal increase in prices wages given for labourers; upward revision of tailoring charges and freight charge increase in tandem with the escalating fuel prices, during the last one year," he said.

The dyeing and bleaching charges too went up in the said period, he said.

According to the hosiery manufacturers, they did not increase the prices of hosiery products for more than two years

Tiruppur's journey to knitwear capital
The New Indian Express June 19, 2018

Tiruppur: From being a small town that struggled under the shadow of the industrial giant of Coimbatore, Tiruppur has come a long towards establishing itself as a textile hub with global relevance. What started as a small scale cottage industry in the 1970s, textile trade in the city now has the potential to reach a market value of Rs.1lakh crore by 2020 and no mean feat. Weather conditions, abundant availability of raw materials and an eclectic labour force came together to make this dollar city in little more than a couple of decades.

While the industry may have had a half-a-century run in the town-turned-city, the boom in scope and sales was rather recent. Even just two decades ago, it was only a centre for cotton trade. Then, a few small units were established to manufacture one simple end product – banians. Soon, they became a brand in itself - they were know for their quality and the whitest-of-white-colour. Banian units began to grow. The city being close to Coimbatore-an established textile manufacturing and trading centre-ensure that it was not short on resources or skilled labour.

Till the early 1980s, the city remained a supplier to Bombay's export market. Slowly, manufacturing units started becoming merchandising agents and by the end of the decade, direct exporters. The once house-hold industry is now does sales worth

Rs.40,000 crore in the global and domestic markets combined. There are about 30,000 registered units in Tiruppur giving employments to around 10lakh employee. What has contributed to the growth of this city that it's called the knitwear capital of India?

While there have been several factors that contributed to the growth of the industry, giving the city its Knitwear Capital moniker, here is one that stands out for its inhabitants- a work culture that hinges on the 'yesterday labourer is today's business owner' axiom. The city has produced many an entrepreneur over the years. A. Sakthivel, the president of federation of Indian export organisations, says, "The best part about the city is that you can start a business with minimum investment. People working in industries learn the trade, save money and start their own units – be it small or big. This city has never failed anyone. Today's labourer can definitely become a business owner tomorrow; hard work and dedication is the key. There are thousands of stories of successful entrepreneurs, who started from scratch, including my own-I started my business with just Rs. 50,000. This city helped me grow."

Many other industrialists vouch for this sentiment too. "It is only about hard work –this is a city that starts work by 8am and closes by 4am the next day. We work so hard that the small town from four decades ago has grown into a city that contributes to nearly 60 percent of the country's total garment export," points out G R Senthilvel, secretary of Tiruppur Exporters and Manufactures Association.

Warp and woof of Tiruppur's knitwear Export – From a meagre (relatively) Rs. 10crore export value in 1984, the textile city now supplies products to several leading global brands and retail chain stores
The New Indian Express June 20, 2018

Tiruppur: The textile city's mammoth contribution towards India's exports in the industry would belie its humble origins and the half-century history of hard painstaking work. While the city accounts for nearly 80percent of the total cotton knitwear exports now in 1984, the value of goods exported from Tiruppur was hardly Rs. 10 crore; the number was still considerably high given the financial scene of that decade. A look at the origin story of this city's textile empire would help understand the gravitas of its contribution in today's market.

The first knitwear company in the city was set in 1925. Growth was still slow in the next decade with just a few more units being established. Things picked up for Tiruppur, when a series of strikes in the factories of Salem and Madurai disrupted business in the region there. This led to more new firms being set up in Tiruppur. By the time the 1940s rolled in, the city had established itself as a prominent centre for knitwear trade in south India.

In 1942, nearly 34 units were engaged in production of knitwear, all these units were part of one composite unit.

By 1961, the number of units had increased to 230. Most of these units were still composite mills-all facets of production were carried out within and not subcontracted to other parties. The city, despite having a prominent standing in the industry, contributed only to the domestic market. It was only in the 1980s that a handful of firms decided to send their products abroad.

Thus began the first tentative steps of foreign export-in 1984, the export value was recorded at Rs.9.69crore. while it might not compare to the Rs.24,000crore exports for the year 2017-18, the sum was nonetheless enormously significant in the decade that was yet to see foreign exchange and inflation.

Tiruppur's direct experience with exports started with Italy, Verona, a garment importer from Italy came to Tiruppur in 1978 through Mumbai exporters to buy white T-shirts. By then, many manufacturers were taking on job orders from merchant exporters. The Italian realised the potential and returned to the Tiruppur the following year for small orders, along with him came other businessmen from Europe.

It was 1981, when a European retail chain C&A came to the city to get its clothes manufactured here. And then, more and more stores started reaching out to exporters here, sitting off a chain of events that lead to the city's textile master -prise.

Over the year, value of goods exported began to rise consistently. Today, the city accounts for nearly 80percent of the country's cotton knitwear export and 45 percent of the country's total knitwear exports. All leading brands-Nike, Cutter&Buck, Tommy Hilfigure, point Zero, Fruit of Looms, Adidas, GAP, Katzenberg, Fila, Arrow, TESCO, S Oliver, Inditex (Zara), etc., and leading chain stores -C&A, WalMart, Target, Primark, Sears and Mothers care, H&M, Decathlon, Carrefour, Lindex, Hanes Brand, Polo, Ralph, Lauren, NEXT, Kiabi, Columbia Sportwear, Bhs, Wal-Mart, Aldi stores, Guess Jeans & Spring Field et. Source their products from Tiruppur Many units.

Hosiery products turn costlier **The Hindu June 28, 2018**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/hosiery-products-turn-costlier/article24275245.ece>

Tiruppur: The hosiery products that are supplied from Tiruppur cluster to the domestic markets have cumulatively become costlier by 123 %, since the first collective decision of entire hosiery manufacturers to increase the prices happened in 2005.

A glance through the cost trend graph accessed by The Hindu shows that the prices of the hosiery products from Tiruppur cluster were raised on as many as 14 occasions since December 5, 2005.

Interestingly, the prices were scaled down only once between December 5, 2005 and the latest decision taken a few days back by the South India Hosiery Manufacturers Association (SIHMA) to increase the costs.

"The resolution to bring down the prices on July 11, 2011, by 5 % has been made only because of a significant reduction in the cotton yarn prices during that period, even though the other costs like transportation and labour charges were going higher", SIHMA sources told The Hindu . The most numbers of price escalations occurred in 2010.

The year saw the hosiery products from Tiruppur cluster become dearer on a total of four occasions with the prices collectively going up by 32 %.

“In 2010, the prices of end products have to be raised by 10, 7, 10 and 5 % within a gap of few months due to periodical hikes in input costs”, said the hosiery manufacturers.

CM hailed for focusing on textile sector's woes
The New Indian Express June 29, 2018

Tiruppur: In a press release issued by Tiruppur Exporters Association, its president Raja M Shanmugam hailed Tamilnadu chief minister Edappadi K.Palanisamy for making a representation to the union minister of commerce about the problems faced by the textile industry in the state on Thursday.

Chief Minister had sent a letter to union commerce minister Suresh Prabhu on June 28 highlighting the need to address a few important issues affecting the textile industry, especially the Tiruppur Knitwear Export Sector, to safeguard the industry and provide it a level playing field in the global market. He also suggested a few measures, including enhancement of duty draw back rates, interest equalisation scheme for export credit and signing of FTA with EU, US, UK and Russia, to establish level playing fields in the export market.

Saying that Sri Lanka was able to export apparels without import duty after being accorded with generalised system of preference by European Union, he requested for a similar set up. Thereafter, he drew the ministry's attention to 11.40 percent duty levied on exports to US. Further saying that countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Ethiopia were enjoying upper hand on import of yarn, meant for garments for export, as no custom duty was levied on it, he demanded similar exemptions for the traders here.

Textile processing units to allow third-party monitoring
The Hindu June 11, 2018

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/textile-processing-units-to-allow-third-party-monitoring/article24132175.ece>

Coimbatore: Textile processing units at SIPCOT Perundurai have decided to go in for third party monitoring of effluent treatment on their premises.

A meeting in this regard was held here recently.

P. Nataraj, chairman of Southern India Mills' Association, said it was essential for units to go in for self-discipline. In order to ensure that the units implement zero liquid discharge it is planned to have a tie-up with an external agency, which will monitor the units. Most of the textile processing houses at SIPCOT are part of export units.

International buyers insist on environmental norms and so the units largely have systems in

place for zero liquid discharge, he said. SIPCOT houses 35 textile processing units and seven of these are connected to a common effluent treatment plant.

Besides, 26 units have a water quality watch centre through which the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board monitors real time data on energy consumption, water consumption, and effluent treatment.

Suresh Manoharan, secretary of Perundurai SIPCOT Textile Processors' Association, said in the last eight years, the level of TDS in wells around the SIPCOT reduced drastically. Textile dyeing units were among the first to start operations at SIPCOT Perundurai. Since then, several chemical processing units started operations. However, if there is an effluent problem it is assumed to be from textile units.

Red category units

The Board should bring in an online monitoring system for all red category units, he said.

S. Chinnasamy, coordinator for the welfare association, said though courts directed processing units to ensure zero liquid discharge, many of them let effluents into bore wells and wells. The level of TDS in and around SIPCOT ranges between 7,000 and 18,000.

The association is demanding closure of all units that do not implement zero liquid discharge. It plans a protest in this regard on June 26 at Perundurai.

Residents complain of cotton dust pollution from textile mill - Unit says damaged filter replaced after receiving complaint

The Hindu June 19, 2018

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/residents-complain-of-cotton-dust-pollution-from-textile-mill/article24195848.ece>

Coimbatore: Residents of Periyar Nagar in Ward 69 of Coimbatore Corporation have alleged that over the past three days cotton waste dust from a micro dust chimney of Pankaja Mills of the National Textile Corporation is causing hardship to them.

V. Shanti (42), living adjacent to the compound wall of the spinning mill for the last 40 years, said the cotton dust was posing a health hazard to children and senior citizens.

Breathing problem

The dust that came out of the chimney settled on the roof top of the houses, trees and creepers and even ropes meant for drying clothes. Ms. Shanti said she had sent her aged mother-in-law to their native village in Erode district on Saturday in order to protect her from wheezing problem.

Though the mill was functioning for 40 years, this was the first time the residents faced this, she said.

N. Durai (55), another resident of Periyar Nagar, said children and the aged suffered respiratory problem over the last three days.

The front yard of a few houses near St. Antony's Church was polluted with cotton dust, a few other residents said.

When contacted, General Manager of Pankaja Mills B. Ramesh said the problem was brought to his notice only on Saturday night.

Officials detected damage to a wire mesh that should filter micro waste in the chimney, and it was replaced on Sunday.

A few workers of the mill were sent to the residential area in Periyar Nagar on Monday to clear the cotton waste, he said.

Notice issued for the strike on July 18th Announcement by the recognised trade unions of NTC mills

Theekadhir June 24, 2018

Coimbatore: As per the announcement by the recognised trade unions of NTC mills, if a compromise would not be made through, the negotiation talks before July 16, they would call for the strike.

A meeting was held in the head office of LPP textile mills with the participation of national textile corporation recognised trade unions such as the INTUC, LPP, ATP and CITU. The meeting was presided by Srinivasan in which Parthasarathy, the general secretary of LPP textile union, Padmanaban, the district president of CITU, Dhanabalan the president of ATP textile union participated and delivered their speeches.

To continue the same the following resolutions were passed during the event. The wage agreement of labourers with the Tamil Nadu NTC mills came to an end on 31st May. An amount of Rs. One thousand as an increment must be included in the basic salary of regularised mill worker. Again, the dearness allowance of 0.65 Paise must be given for every point above 4800 points by calculation. An amount of yearly increment by 10 percent must be included in the basic pay. The temporary leave being provided for 6 days must be increased as 9 days per year.

Further, the minimum salary of Rs.600 per day fixed by the central government must be given to the worker temporarily employed in NTC mills. Also, the NTC administrator must come forward to regularise a worker who has worked for 480 days. Related to this demands a negotiation talks would be conducted with the NTC administration to find a solution for the wage increment from July 1st onwards as per the resolution passed during the event. Again, if the NTC administration would not come forward to take initiatives the strike would be started on 16th as per the notice issued. The executive members of the recognised by NTC textile mills workers were also participated in the meeting held thereon.

Dyeing

Largesse is not for all - Govts. came to Tiruppur's rescue

The Hindu June 10, 2018

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/largesse-is-not-for-all/article24124509.ece>

On January 28, 2011, when the Madras High Court ordered the closure of 754 dyeing and bleaching units in Tiruppur, along with Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP), for not having followed zero liquid discharge (ZLD) norms, it sounded a virtual death knell for the industry.

But given that Tiruppur provides employment to over five lakh people and accounts for 22% of the country's total garment exports, the response to the judicial intervention was prompt and positive.

"This episode has demonstrated how resilient we are," says Raja M. Shanmugam, president, Tiruppur Exporters' Association.

The State and Central governments too came forward to provide succour. A grant of Rs.300 crore (Centre's share: Rs.187.5 crore and Rs.112.5 crore from the State) was sanctioned. The State also gave Rs.203.29 crore in interest-free loans (IFL) for purchase of machinery for ZLD plants.

In December 2016, the Union government approved a further IFL of Rs.200 crore to help the industry recover from financial stress on account of investing in ZLD plants.

"Apart from the assistance of the State and Central governments, the industry has invested around Rs.470 crore in projects," says S. Nagarajan, president, Dyers Association of Tiruppur.

But the largesse is limited to Tiruppur. In neighbouring Erode, dyeing units of the Perundurai SIPCOT Textile Processors Association have not been lucky. In addition to a CETP, there are some individual ETPs, all following ZLD norms. "However, what we want now is advice from the TNPCB on how to dispose residual salt. At present, we are storing it in a secure environment. But, we are keen on disposing it at the earliest," says S. Selvaraj, joint secretary of the association.

Recipe for a return: Six years and collective resilience - Despite the shutdown of dyeing and bleaching units crippling the industry in 2011. Tiruppur's textile sector show little sign of it 7 years later

The New Indian Express June 22, 2018

Tiruppur: While the rags-to-riches story of the textile city may appear to have been simple, it was not always smooth-sailing for the industrialists involved. The sector was brought to its knees in 2011 when the High Court ordered the closure of all dyeing and bleaching units for violations in effluent treatment. While loss to the units and the entire sector ranged between Rs.10 to 42 crore every day, the industry found ways to not just stay afloat but also to

reinvent itself and retain its foothold in the market. The tale of sheer resilience and back-breaking labour is worth chronicling for posterity.

The High Court order came after farmers and a few non governmental organisations filed a case against the dyeing and bleaching units of the city, accusing them of discharging untreated effluent and causing pollution of the Noyyal. The units were directed to set up effluent treatment plants (ETP) and Zero Liquid Discharge(ZLD) system to be allowed to reopen. The execution of the order affected the jobs of over 50,000 people directly and as many as six lakh people indirectly involved in 40 different operation associated with the units. The units that were shut down reported a loss of Rs. 10 crore every day. While the city's knit-wear industry that was dependent on them recorded a loss of around Rs. 42 crore daily.

Recalling the times then, Tiruppur Exporter's Association(TEA) president Raja M Shanmugam says, "It was like doomsday. Everyone was feeling negative. Word was that Tiruppur was done and the industry will never be able to make a comeback here. Families were vacating the city in droves. Everybody wrote us off."

However, the city was not ready to give up just yet. "We wanted to bring the industry back to its feet. In the meantime, industries in the city began using dyeing factories in other cities- Hyderabad, Mumbai and Ludhinana. With their input, we were able to ship the orders we had taken up, albeit with a small delay. (When everyone expected the business to come to a standstill) we managed to continue the show. Had it stopped, the exporters would have lost confidence of buyers and we would have lost all business," narrates Raja.

Meanwhile, they got to work on the court order as well. ETPs were set up and ZLD system was adopted across the board. "The state government stepped in and helped in the process of the early 2012. Now, our ZLD treatment is the best in Asia," declares Raja.

And it is not without merit, Tiruppur's Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) ZLD project was recognised by Global Water Intelligence (GWI) with the Global Water Awards 2014' under the category of 'the industrial water project of the year and commended the Tamilnadu water investment company (TWIC) as the 'phoenix rising from the ashes of an environmental catastrophe'.

In the same year, Tiruppur ZLD Project was chosen as the 'Water Reuse Industrial Project of the year, 2014 by the Water Reuse Association, USA. The coveted award recognises projects, whose significance and contributions to community continue to advance the water reuse industry.

While awards and accolades tend to cover over the difficulties of the job, the city made sure its people were not forgotten when things started to turn around. That was why the TEA brought all stakeholders of the industry, along with media representatives and government officials to celebrate the progress and acknowledge every contribution. Thus, began Resilient Tiruppur in August 2012. "IAS officer V. Iraianbu spoke at the first conference; the speech he gave that day set the path towards rejuvenation. It took 25years since 1985 for the industry to reach an export value from Rs.10 crore to Rs. 10,500 crore. However, after the shutdown, it took only six years for the sector to reach Rs. 26,000 crore," points out Raja, one of the major players in bringing the industry back to its glory days.

**The effluent water treatment centre up to zero degree has been awarded
Dinamalar June 26, 2018**

Tiruppur: A preliminary award has been given to a dyeing factory in Arulpuram for having treated the effluent water up to zero degree in Arulpuram.

The dyeing factories in Tiruppur usually treat the effluent water up to zero degree through the centre in Arulpuram in Tiruppur. To serve this purpose , about 18 effluent water treatment centres have been founded and successfully operated.

The public effluent water treatment centre at Arulpuram has 12 companies as its members and its capacity is to treat the effluent water up to 55lakhs litres. The 'SCOTCH' a government recognised organisation provide awards to the deserving person in every state.

Honourable central minister for the Iron Chawdhri Pirendar Singh had awarded the Arulpuram effluent water treatment centre during the function held on the last 25th in the function. Yugin, the joint director of Tamilnadu handloom and textile, Nagarajan, the president of Tiruppur Dyeing Factory Owners Association participated in the event and received the awards.

While speaking Nagarajan, the president of the dyeing factory association pointed out that all the effluent water treatment centres are successfully functioning with the excellence. The award given to the dyeing factory association must be regarded as one that is provided to everyone in Tiruppur.

**Police personnel ask the company owners to issue identity card to the northern state workers -To prevent the criminal activities
Daily Thanthi June 26, 2018**

Uthukulli, Tiruppur: A large number of garments companies including the cartoon box companies and the spinning mills are being operated the areas of Koolipalayam, Peryapalayam, Uthukulli, Morattupalayam, Sengapalli, Pallagoundanpalayam, Vijayamangalam areas within the Uthukulli police jurisdiction. More than, fifteen thousand workers are employed in all of these companies. Some of the companies allot employment to the northern state workers without collecting required particulars in detail. By making use of this opportunity the northern state workers indulge without collecting required include in the criminal activities. Since, they change their work place now and then it is very important to enable to identify them.

Hence, those who appoint these people in the industries and companies must scrutinise the original certificates and provide them with the identity card. Again, those who provide the house accommodation on rent basis must thoroughly go through the original certificate and ensure the name of the company wherein they work. If suspicion would arise they must give information to the police station in accordance with the police personnel.

Order issued to collect the complete details of northern states labourers -To prevent the criminal activities in Tiruppur

Dinakaran June 26, 2018

Tiruppur: The police commissioner of Tiruppur has issued an order to the companies to collect the complete details of the northern states workers to prevent the criminal activities.

A large number of workers from the states such as Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Odisha, West Bengal and Rajasthan have come to Tiruppur to work in the garment companies.

Nearly, twenty regular trains and thirty weekly trains from the northern states notably from Patna, Delhi and Mumbai to Tiruppur are being operated every week. An average of 50 workers is coming by each train every day. The garment company proprietors appoint them in their companies without any conditions and objections. This is because of the managing the shortage of workers everywhere in Tiruppur. The criminals of northern states involved in the severe criminal activities are making this opportunity and live as labourers in the crowded city of Tiruppur.

Recently, many persons who have contact with the organised extremists were arrested by the police personnel of Tiruppur. Again, many persons of Bangladesh without any document and certificate were arrested. If this foul practice would be allowed, the future of Tiruppur may be divested. So, the companies which provide job to the workers from the northern states must collect all the details about the each worker before the appointment in accordance with the order of police commissioner.

Anti Child Labour

An awareness meeting on the revised child labour law - In the labour welfare commissioner office

Daily Thanthi June 9, 2018

Tiruppur: An awareness meeting on the revised child labour law was conducted in the office of the commissioner of labour welfare board.

To prevent the practice of appointing the children and the youths in the companies and shops. An awareness meeting was held yesterday on the revised children and youths labour, in the office of assistant labour welfare office in Tiruppur. The meeting was presided over by Lenin the assistant labour commissioner.

On the eve of the meeting it was announced that the practice of appointing the children below the ages of 14 years notably in the shops, companies, bakery and the hotels, cinema, therefore hospitals, petrol banks, motor transport companies and the youths above the ages of 14 years to 18 years in the severe work companies as per the laws were illegal.

Again, the law warns the companies which appoint the children and the youths for the works, that the legal action will be taken against them in such a way to pay the pending of Rs. 50 thousand and the imprisonment for a period of not less than two years or both will be applicable as per the law.

Also, it was advised to stick on the notices signifying the abolishment of child labour along with the circulation of leaflets and involve in the inspection. The child labours abolishment day will be observed on 12th of this month as per the decision made in the meeting.

The executives of merchants association the representatives and their associated works were participated in the meeting held there on.

Signature campaign for the abolishment of child labour Dinakaran June 13, 2018

Tiruppur: On behalf of Tiruppur 'SAVE', signature campaign against Anti child Labour was conducted in front of the Tiruppur corporation office , on the occasion of Anti Child labour day on 12th of this month. The public was signed in the banner against engaging the children in various works and also the camp has given awareness.

Sabina, the assistant commissioner of labour initiated signature campaign by signing first. On the eve of the occasion Aloysius the Director of SAVE and the general public participated more than thousand people signed during the event. The leaflets of awareness was disseminated to more than 500 persons participated.

ESI /PF

75% of PF can be withdrawn after 30 days of unemployment The New Indian Express June 28, 2018

New Delhi: In good news for employees cross the country, Employees provident fund organisation (EPFO) chairman and union labour minister Santhosh Kumar Gangwar on Wednesday said that unemployed members of the EPFO-both private and government-can withdraw 75 percent of their provident fund till up to one month of termination.

The minister announced the decision after chairing a meet of EPFO officials. "In case a person is unemployed for two months, he or she can withdraw the remaining 25 percent of the amount as well. Thus, this will enable the employee maintain his or her account with the EPFO," the minister said and added that unemployed people were free to close their accounts after withdrawing the full amount.

“EPFO extends additional facility to unemployed members to avail non -refundable advance up to 75 percent of outstanding balance in case of unemployed for more than a month. Existing provision of complete withdrawal after two months of unemployment remains unchanged,” the EPF India tweeted.

Labour Issues

Labour ministry puts on hold quarterly employment survey **The New Indian Express June 11, 2018**

New Delhi: The labour ministry has decided to put the eighth quarterly employment survey (QES) on hold as officials have been deployed in the field to collect data from the unorganised sector.

The QES gives details on the number of jobs created in eight sectors which account for around 80 percent of India’s total organised workforce. “Another reason for putting the QES report on hold is that it gives the government time to add the payroll data to it”, a ministry official said, and added that the payroll data had higher projections for the number of jobs created in the organized sector. The payroll data projects that 35 lakh jobs were added in the formal sector between September last year and March 2018. This is in stark contrast to the seventh QES report for April to September 2017 which showed only 2 lakh jobs being created.

The move is being seen as contradictory, as initially the ministry had planned to release separate surveys for the organized and unorganized sectors. The latest QES report was due in May and was to give details about jobs for the October-December 2017 period.

The payroll data is the first-ever estimate based on data from the employee’s provident fund organisation, employees state insurance corporation, and pension fund regulatory and development authority.

According to ministry officials, due to the time lag and low numbers, the QES data is slowly losing relevance. “There is a possibility that the ministry may not come out with the QES in the organised sector as the government has recently decided to make the payroll data a regular exercise. Since both of these reflect the number of jobs created in the organised sector, there is a significant overlap in the work done and there could even be some mismatch between those numbers,” the official said.

Trade Union

Two Doctors for two lakhs workers - The Pathetic conditions of Tiruppur ESI hospital Theekadhir June 14, 2018

Tiruppur: About two lakhs of workers involved in the garment manufacturing activities in Tiruppur have registered their names as the subscribers. But, there are only two doctors to employ two hospitals function under under the ESI.

The trade unionists insist to construct the ESI hospital and appoint more doctors to render their services to the workers who construct crores of rupees in the name of subscription. Concerning Tiruppur the garment city, more than 4 lakhs of workers are employed in the garment companies in Tiruppur directly as well as indirectly. But, most of the workers are not provided the basic concession such as ESI and PF for which the certain amount of money is collected under these circumstances about two lakhs of workers are employed in the garment industry in Tiruppur.

But, the services being rendered to them are extremely poor, only two members of ESI hospitals one in Odakkadu and another in Kongu main road are activated in Tiruppur. Again, there are no facilities such as the provision of bed and treatment in these hospitals. Similarly, there is no operation theatre in the hospitals. About 4 doctors were appointed in each of the ESI hospitals. But a member of 8 doctors was working in the said ESI hospital before ten years. Now a day's only two doctors are employed in accordance with one in each hospital.

While asking about this, the officials of ESI Corporation say that the required fund to appoint the doctors is provided to the state government alone will have to appoint the doctors. When the state government does not pay any attention towards this issue, they have nothing to do is the only reply received from them. So, the state government must appoint the doctors required in the ESI hospitals. This is the main expectation of workers.

Apart from this, though the branches of ESI are existing there is no required office bearers. There is a single manager to look after their two hospitals. Again, he belongs to the northern state. Since, he does not know the Tamil; the workers are unable to communicate with him to fulfil their requirements.

As per the opinion of workers, that they cannot entertain any benefits from ESI hospital on account of the language problem with the official in an industrial city wherein two lakhs of workers employed. At least, it is very important, that the officials must communicate with the workers through the interpreter. But, nothing being done, in the ESI hospitals.

Moreover, many other schemes of facilities are provided to the workers through the ESI hospitals. At the same time, there are facilities being provided to the workers in the private hospitals reorganised by ESI preferably for the higher treatment. The workers can entertain the emergency treatment in such hospitals at their own expenditure but recollect them from

the ESI office. But, at present no such facilities are provided to the workers of Tiruppur.

Perhaps, if the recommendation for the higher treatment is made by the hospital authorities of Tiruppur to admit the workers in the ESI medical college hospital at Singanallur. So, the labours are not sent to the recognised private hospitals for the treatment. Again, the scheme for the higher level of medical treatment in the private hospital is not properly operated by the ESI officials.

For instance, Chandrasekar, a labourer admitted his father in a private hospital for the treatment. But, the expenditures occurred during the treatment is not yet refunded for the past many months. Similarly, a woman worker named as Poongodi was met with an accident in which her bone was broken. She was admitted in a private hospital for the treatment of operation. The money spent for the medical treatment in the private hospital is not received for six months from ESI. It is said that each worker must be given an amount does not refund the money to the workers in many cases.

It is an evident that there is a lot of similar issues in the case of a woman and therefore they are not interested in making the use of medical facilities being provided by the ESI. At the same time, the expenditure being made towards the medical treatment in each family are increased every day. Thus, the trade unionists make documents to take necessary steps to entertain the benefits of medical treatment through the ESI Corporation.

Notably, 15 years have been passed since the proposal for the construction of ESI hospital with one hundred beds in Tiruppur. But, so far there is no initiatives taken. So, for the benefits of workers in Tiruppur with the view of long foresight, the ESI medical hospital must be constructed and also appoint the doctors in the small hospital, for the proper treatment in accordance with the labourers and the trade unionists.

