



SAVE

SEPTEMBER –2017

News Letter

Special points of interest:

- Garments
- Dyeing
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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

New crisis in the export of garments to the European countries – by the exporters of Tirupur and Kovai

Dinakaran, September 7, 2017

Coimbatore: Since a new crisis has emerged in the garment export sector concerning European countries, the exporters have suggested extending the foreign market to Russia and Middle East countries according to the Indian Textile Corporation.

Prabu Damodaran, the Secretary of the Indian Texpreneurs' Federation, expressed his views on this topic. He stated that in order to make some important decisions for the garment export companies in Tirupur and Coimbatore, the Indian Textile Corporation selected 100 of those companies as a model on which to conduct a survey for the past few days.

Among them, about 70 companies have been involved in the export of garments to European countries; 18 companies to the American market; four companies to the UK and four companies to other countries. European countries have already made agreements with Bangladesh and import garments from there on favourable terms. Mr Prabu Damodaran explained that since there is no such special agreement here, companies in Tirupur and Coimbatore are competing on an uneven scale with Bangladesh.

European countries are preparing themselves to enter into textile agreements with Vietnam. As a result, competition to access the European export market will become more and more critical. Apart from this, some other countries are preparing themselves to export garments to European countries. Since India is relying heavily on European countries, the increased competition to supply to the European market will result in a new export business crisis.

Therefore, garment export companies must seek out new opportunities in other countries such as the Middle East countries. Furthermore, there must be a concentration on the domestic market. The result of the survey has been shared with exporters.

Caution list: garment exporters get temporary relief

The Hindu September 12, 2017

Link

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/caution-list-garment-exporters-get-temporary-relief/article19668748.ece>

Tirupur: Garment exporters here got a minor relief as the decision to put the exporters into the 'caution list' for non-closure of export realisations for more than two years in the Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS) has been kept in abeyance till December-end.

This was to give adaptation time sought by the exporting fraternity and facilitate necessary corrections related to export document entries in the relatively-new EDPMS package.

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) sources told that the sudden decision for not putting into 'caution list' till December-end was taken following the representations which the IBA and other export-sector stakeholders made to the Reserve Bank of India highlighting the difficulties faced by the exporters due to lack of adequate awareness about the EDPMS.

Objective: The EDPMS was introduced with an objective to closely monitor the export realisations vis-a-vis the orders, to prevent any hawala transactions.

Under the system, exporters would be put into the 'caution list' in cases where a shipping bill had remained open for more than two years with the write-off provisions possible only to the tune of 5 % in general cases and 10 % for exporters classified as 'status holders' depending on their turnovers.

"Some of the exporters in clusters like Tirupur have already got into 'caution list' due to inadequate dissemination of its modalities, even though the aim of the system per se is good", pointed out Tirupur Exporters Association president Raja Shanmugam.

Once in the caution list, the banks would not be negotiating with the exporters for pre-shipment credits in the case of non-Letter of Credit bills.

Support: "Banks can still extend support, even after under in 'caution list', provided the exporters present full advanced payment for the orders or show an irremovable letter of credit for full value of proposed exports. Both stringent conditions are extremely difficult to attain", pointed out exporters.

"READY CLOTHING" business severely affected

Daily Thanthi September 15, 2017

Tirupur: In garment manufacturing, the garment companies procure the yarn that they require and arrange for the knitting and dyeing processes. At the same time, there are many drawbacks to overcome in the provision of yarn to the companies at various stages. Taking that into the consideration, the 'Ready Clothing' business in Tirupur operates in such a way as to sell the coloured cloths required in the small, mini and middle garment companies.

More than 300 persons have been involved in the 'Ready Clothing' business and have manufactured several of those cloths, which are kept in the form of rolls for the purpose of sale. The garment manufacturers procure the cloths and turn them into garments.

According to the collected opinion of the garment manufacturers, they can avoid the risks in the various processes and finish their work in 20 days with time to meet supply.

However, it is because of the implementation of the Goods and Services (GST) Tax that the orders from the other states have decreased. The garment companies (small, mini) have reduced their production. Consequently, the garment manufacturers have lost their interest in the procurement of garment cloth rolls. Thus, the cloth rolls remain unsold and their value is very much in accordance with the opinion of the owners.

Since the sale of cloth rolls is affected, the price has decreased by Rs. 15 per kg. Subsequently, garment manufacturers are now indifferent to the procurement of cloths according to the 'Ready Clothing' businesses.

A tough task for Tirupur **The Hindu September 21, 2017**

Tirupur: The vision of achieving Rs. 1 lakh crore annual turnover from Tirupur apparel cluster by 2020 is turning out to be a tough task if one goes by the latest data on ready-made garment exports, and compounded annual growth rate (CAGR).

The data accessed by The Hindu indicated that the overall ready-made garment exports from the country had shown a negative growth for the three consecutive months of June, July and August when compared to corresponding months of 2016-17 fiscal. The month-on-month exports has declined by 5.54 % in June, by 15.47 % in July and by 3.84 % in August.

The overall growth rate negative in the apparel industry for the last three months and CAGR for Tirupur cluster in specific was at just 8.75 %.

It would be an uphill task to achieve the targeted turnover by 2020 from the present Rs. 25,000 crore.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/a-tough-task-for-tirupur/article19724685.ece>

More disheartening would be the fact that the competing countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam had a CAGR of 14.8 % and 15 % for four years till 2016.

“The government support should be more like stopping of raw material exports,” said G.R. Senthilvel, secretary of Tirupur Exporters and Manufacturers Association.

Dyeing Issues

Prevention of the effluent water discharge into the Noyyal River – initiatives by the Pollution Control Board

Dinakaran September 7, 2017

Chennimalai: It is because of the steps being taken by the officials of the Pollution Control Board that the discharge of effluent water into the Noyyal River has stopped. Additionally, good water sources are being filled up in the Orathupalayam dam.

Since the fall of heavy rains in Tirupur and its surroundings for the past two days, the flood in the river experienced overflow. The effluent water from the dyeing factories was discharged into the river.

Knowing this, the farmers lodged complaints stating that the untreated effluent water from the dyeing factories had been discharged into the river resulting in water pollution. From then, the dyeing factories were monitored continuously and as a result the effluent water discharged from the dyeing factories was almost stopped.

Murali, the Assistant Engineer of the Tirupur District Pollution Control Board's Flying Squad, inspected the water in the Orathupalayam dam. At the time, it was observed that the salt content in the water was 400 TDS. If the rainwater would be stored in the dam at such a level, the agricultural industry in the area would be prosperous.

Companies discharge the effluent water into the Noyyal River in Tirupur – people demand steps to be taken

Daily Thanthi September 8, 2017

Tirupur: The general public of Tirupur demand that steps be taken against the companies which discharge the effluent water into the Noyyal River.

Thousands of garment companies are operating within the Tirupur Corporation and dyeing companies play an important role in the manufacture of garments. However, the

problem of untreated effluent water entering into the Noyyal River persists. The Pollution Control Board had banned the dyeing factories in 2011. As a result of this ban, the garment business was severely affected resulting in the loss of many thousand crores of rupees.

As a way to revive the operation of dyeing factories, the public effluent water treatment centres were utilised for the first time in Tirupur. At present, about 478 private effluent water treatment centres were built within the Tirupur's radius. The effluent water being discharged from the dyeing factories is treated and used in the recycling process method.

Even then, a considerable number of dyeing factories and the public effluent water treatment centres on the banks of the Noyyal River discharge untreated liquid discharge into the river. Among them, many of the dyeing factories collect the untreated effluent water in large tanks and wait for the rainy season so as to enable its disposal into the Noyyal River easily and undetectably. The public effluent water treatment centres near the river also discharge untreated effluent water into the river.

There was heavy rainfall for the past few days in Tirupur and because of that the flood level increased. By making use of this situation, the public effluent water treatment centres at Kasipalayam check dam discharged effluent water into the river. A consequence of this was that part of the main channel from the Noyyal to the Manikkapuram Lake was black in colour. Upon seeing this, the general public as well as NGOs were shocked. Moreover, the entire area was filled with a putrid stench. The general public demanded that the government authorities take steps against this public lack of effluent water treatment.

Related to this they have said, "The public effluent water treatment centres in many places are involved in the practice of emptying many lakhs of litres of effluent water into the river. This affects the people's health conditions and is detrimental to maintaining the amount of pure water in the lake in Manikkapuram. The Pollution Control Board officials must investigate these public centres during the rainy season and identify any centre that is involved in such a practice. The power supply of those centres found in contravention must be disconnected or in the alternative, steps must be taken to close down such centres."

In response, Murugasamy, the Secretary of the Dyeing Factory Owners Association, said,

"As per the law, the discharge of effluent water without proper treatment is a crime. While the government is giving the financial assistance to these centres for the purpose of proper effluent water treatment, the practices of these public effluent water treatment centres must not be admissible. Regarding this, I would like to organise a consultation meeting with the Association members and officials of the Pollution Control Board to take the necessary actions against such practices."

Colour changed water in the Arulpuram Lake near Palladam due to the mix of effluent water – public people make demand to take action

Dinakaran September 11, 2017

Pongalur: More than one hundred dyeing factories are operating in the Arulpuram area near Palladam, Tirupur.

For the past few days, heavy rainfall occurred in Arulpuram and its surrounding areas filling all the lakes and ponds. The residents of the area noticed that the nearby lake changed colour and untreated effluent water was later discovered.

The effluent water that mixed with the rainwater was not only detrimental to the soil resources, but also to the cattle's drinking water. According to agriculturalists and general opinion, the pollution of the drinking water results in severe diseases.

The residents in the area demanded that the Pollution Control Board and the environmental protection officials must take the necessary action against the dyeing factories that have discharged the effluent water.

TEAMA petitions for action to save the Noyyal from industrial pollution

The New Indian Express September 11, 2017

Tirupur: With efforts being taken on one hand to unite the rivers, Tirupur Exporters and Manufacturers Association (TEAMA), on the other hand, are busy fighting to save the Noyyal, a tributary of the Cauvery from the clutches of industrial pollution. A petition has been filed by TEAMA urging the State to take actions to save the river.

According to a press release from TEAMA, industrial effluents and chemical dye waste discharged by a few industries into the river Noyyal is polluting the water body to unimaginable levels that it affects agriculture and the knitting industry as well.

A few months ago, Tirupur had to close down several hundreds of dyeing units owing to strict laws. As per law, manufacturers had to adhere to the zero-liquid discharge process. However, not all units do so.

Speaking to media personnel, M.P. Muthurathinam, President of TEAMA said, "The government should construct concrete structures on either sides of the river to block such dyeing units from discharging chemical waste. Although most units strictly adhere to the law, a few engage in such unlawful activities which will in turn greatly affect the industries and agriculture in Tirupur district."

Students join residents against dyeing units

The new Indian Express September 12, 2017

Tirupur/Erode: More than 200 students of the Government Elementary School of Kunnangalpalayam have signed a petition along with nearly 400 families of the village in Palladam taluk, asking the Collector to stop dyeing units from using charcoal. They cited the serious health threats caused by the charcoal fumes emanating from the units in their village.

In the petition, residents claimed that children suffered from respiratory disorders all year long because of charcoal fumes. "Doctors have asked us to vacate our houses to avoid serious health complications," said P. Bharathi (50), a resident.

"When we go out early in the morning, we have to choke on a thick mist of dark fumes with an irritating smell", she added. The Collector has assured them of an immediate inspection and necessary action.

Residents complain of pollution

Residents of Kalikkavalasu village in Murungathozhuvu village brought polluted water in a bottle to the Collectorate on Monday and showed it to the Collector. Leading them, a resident, M. Sellappan, said, "As the water supplied in our area is not potable, we are going to nearby areas to collect water." He sought steps to dig a bore well in their area and also to construct an overhead tank to supply potable water in the area. The residents also demanded power connection to a women's sanitary complex.

ETP test run in progress

Meanwhile Erode Collector, S. Prabhakar, said that the district administration is now conducting a test run of the effluent treatment plant installed at Choolai.

Speaking to the media, he said, "The district administration, with the help of some philanthropists, set up two ETPs at Choolai at a cost of over 2 crore to cleanse sewage water and textile effluents. Now the trial run of one of the machines is going on. We found that the ETP reduced the TDS in sewage water from 2,400 PPM to 1,800 PPM after processing without using any chemicals. Now, efforts are on to reduce it to 700 PPM."

Dyeing units sealed

The Hindu September 14, 2017

Link

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/dyeing-units-sealed/article19680113.ece>

Tirupur: A total of 23 dyeing units attached to Eastern Common Effluent Treatment Plant were sealed by the officials of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board on Wednesday for indiscriminate discharge of untreated effluents into a feeder canal.

TNPCB District Environmental Engineer K. Elankumaran said that raw effluent was coming out from one of the pipelines attached to the CETP.

New ideas to reduce carbon footprint underway as Tirupur gets set to shed polluted industrial city tag

The New Indian Express September 16, 2017

Tirupur: The industrial city of Tirupur, which activists believed suffers from pollution of rivers, waterways and the entire ecosystem, is now working towards reducing its carbon footprint, said Raja M. Shanmugam, President of the Tirupur Exporters Association (TEA).

According to the TEA President, the industrial cluster had issues relating to pollution earlier, but after the High court decision in 2011, numerous dyeing units in the city were closed. He added that the city rose above this due to the resilient nature of the business community.

Shanmugam said, "Tirupur is the first place in the country to adopt the Zero Liquid Discharge. Because of our recycling, 10 crore litres of water is recycled and conserved every day. Even on the energy front, the city's energy requirement is around 200 mw, while the entire Tirupur district requires 600 mw daily. But we produce 1,500 mw of energy through green energy using wind energy and solar energy and connect it to the grid." He also spoke on the afforestation drives by private environmental organisations that have planted around 3.513 lakh trees, with 40 tractors exclusively watering these trees.

When asked about the recent closure of 23 dyeing units along the Noyyal River at Kasipalayam in Uthukuli Road by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and if it had made the pollution issue resurface again, Shanmugam said that it was an isolated incident and that it did not represent the entire Tirupur knitwear industry as a whole.

Violation of pollution control norms by dyeing units continues unabated **The Hindu September 18, 2017**

Link

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/violation-of-pollution-control-norms-by-dyeing-units-continues-unabated/article19706733.ece>

Tirupur: A section of the dyeing unit owners' claims of adherence to zero liquid discharge (ZLD) norms and green protocols/green tags are getting exposed with the detection of pollution control norms violation in the fabric dyeing segment at periodic intervals.

The ceiling of 23 dyeing units attached to Eastern Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) on Wednesday was the latest in the chronicles of violations that started surfacing within weeks after the Madras High Court ordered closure of all dyeing and bleaching units cluster in January 2011 for polluting River Noyyal and water bodies.

Since then, many dyeing units were caught for indiscriminate discharge of effluents into the open, even though the Madras High Court directive was clear that neither the treated or untreated effluent should be discharged and the units should maintain ZLD norms.

Initially, the Dyers Association of Tirupur took the stance that the polluting units were unauthorised ones and not its members. However, the said claims too crumbled like a pack of cards when member units of CETPs were caught for pollution. Some of the units were found polluting water bodies, while other units were cautioned for polluting air through use of charcoal for boiler operations without erecting proper wet scrubbers or mechanised dust collectors.

K. C. M. Balasubramaniam, a retired agriculture economist and a farmer, feels that if the authorities were strict, the dyeing units would not have mustered courage to clandestinely discharge water all through the six years since the court order in 2011.

"The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board officials are mostly catching units only after complaints coming up from people. After initial sealing, many units somehow manage to reopen. Actually, contempt of court proceedings should be taken against dyeing unit owners who were involved in the violations", he said.

Farmers' community were also critical of government grants/financial aid been given to CETPs in the recent times.

'Initiate action against erring dyeing units' - Farmers, political parties want grants given to such units taken back

The Hindu September 20, 2017



Link

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/initiate-action-against-erring-dyeing-units/article19715432.ece>

Tirupur: Farmers and political outfits call for taking back grants to dyeing units

Farmers and Pattali Makkal Katchi and Aam Aadmi Party have called upon the central and state governments to take back the grants given to dyeing units in Tirupur knitwear cluster for ensuring zero liquid discharge (ZLD) in effluent treatment.

The appeal had come in the wake of large scale of indiscriminate discharge of effluents into River Noyyal over the past few days. "Every time it rains, the dyeing units are discharging effluents in violation of the court directive to comply with ZLD norms. The dyeing sector industrialists are using rain and subsequent good flow of water in the river as a cover to avoid treatment of effluents with a single vision on increasing profit margins", accused K. Swaminathan, a farmer and secretary of Groundwater Protection Forum.

Mr. Swaminathan and also S. Mansoor, state president of minorities wing of PMK were of the opinion that the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board officials should be held responsible for the violations caused by dyeing units and all assistances to dyeing units stopped.

"Senior officials of TNPCB in Tirupur should be suspended as they have been taking only cosmetic actions against erring units which too mostly on a reactive basis after some major complaints raised by people and not on a proactive mode, said Mr. Mansoor adding that all dyeing units should be closed once again as done in 2011.

S. Sundarapandian, district convener of AAP, said the grants given to enhance the operations of Common Effluent Treatment Plant itself were in violation of court's observation of polluters pay.

"Even after collecting the assistances, the violations continue. Hence, the grants should be collected back from dyeing units with interest", he added.

Domestic waste polluting river: Environment minister

The New Indian Express September 23, 2017

Tirupur: Tirupur district dyeing factories association, treatment plants and NGOs organised a meeting to discuss how to control pollution in the Noyyal river.

Recently, the Pollution Control Board even sealed 23 dyeing units along the Noyyal banks that were alleged to have discharged dyeing waste into the river.

The Environment Minister, Karuppannan, in his speech said, "Tirupur district has received ample rainfall after a drought of two years and the Noyyal is flooded having

received water from the Coimbatore catchment area also. Because of this, local sewage which got mixed in Coimbatore has been brought by the river and is seen as foam near Tirupur. That is not dyeing waste but local sewage that has been discharged into the river in huge quantities.” He further said that it is not chemical waste and that he has encouraged business owners to continue doing business with confidence.

He said that the media should be more responsible and report the facts.

Comprehensive plan to clean River Noyyal - Work to begin shortly over nine-km stretch

The Hindu September 25, 2017

Tirupur: With pollution in River Noyyal becoming a contentious issue in the recent times, the textile-sector industrialists have drawn up a plan for a comprehensive cleaning of River Noyyal and few other streams and also take up awareness drives to prevent further pollution. The works will begin shortly over a nine-km. stretch of River Noyyal passing through the cluster, at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 30 lakh. The cost will be borne by the member units of almost all textile associations in the cluster.

The effort, in a way, could act as a makeover exercise for the businessmen in Tirupur knitwear cluster who had faced the wrath for the industrial pollution in River Noyyal, its tributaries and other water bodies over the past few decades.

The Tirupur Exporters Association president Raja Shanmugam told The Hindu that a total of four earthmovers would be used to remove the silt and plastic wastes that got accumulated on the riverbed.

“The first phase of the project will concentrate on River Noyyal and the second phase on other streams in the cluster”, he said.

According to him, the key phase of the programme will be the awareness crusade planned to improve the civic sense against dumping of wastes into water bodies. The people staying on the banks of the water bodies will be explained the importance of waste disposal only at the bins meant for the purpose.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/comprehensive-plan-to-clean-river-noyyal/article19749944.ece>

Agriculture affected in Arulpuram on account of effluent water

Dinamani September 25, 2017

Palladam: Due to effluent water discharged from dyeing factories, the agriculture industry has been severely affected in Arulpuram area near Palladam in Tirupur district.

A couple, Rajamani and Sivagami, have been living on an agriculture farm in Karaipudur panchayat in Palladam Taluk where a public effluent water treatment centre exists. A bore well in their own farm was severely affected due to the discharge of effluent water. Therefore, the water could not be used for agricultural purposes. Because the water could not be used for agricultural purposes, the crops dried up and withered.

Sivagami said, "Because of the rainy season we are cultivating the land for the manjal, banana and vegetables crops. About a few months back, the ground water level went down. So we had dug a bore well up to 800 feet and irrigated the crops. A small quantity of effluent water is sent from the dyeing factory or the public effluent water is sent directly either into the well or into the bore well. The result is that the well and bore well water are mixed with the effluent water discharged from the dyeing factories."

We are all subjected to obtain the pure water supplied by the panchayat. Or to procure the mineral water being sold we will have to purchase a large quantity for our cattle.

The officials of the Pollution Control Board must take the necessary remedial steps.

Benefits for textile exporters must continue, says SIMA - 'Revenues may shrink if duty drawbacks rates are reduced'

The Hindu September 15, 2017

Coimbatore: With uncertainties related to the duty drawback scheme continuing, textile exporters are delaying finalising orders, said P. Nataraj, chairman of Southern India Mills' Association.

Link

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/benefits-for-textile-exporters-must-continue-says-sima/article19693921.ece>

“The government has not yet given the mandate to the Duty Drawback Committee to recommend the revised duty drawback rates and ROSL (Rebate of State Levies). The Government had extended the benefits only up to September 30. As there is uncertainty in the rates of benefits, export booking is getting delayed,” he said.

‘Advantage competitors’

Textile exporters need 60-75 days to ship the goods from the time they confirm the orders. If there was a delay in finalising orders, they would be unable to ship on time. Countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam have trade agreements with the EU and the U.S. and have close to a 10% cost advantage over Indian garment exporters because of nil import duty.

India can be competitive only if duty drawback and export benefits are continued. Textile exporters might not register growth if the duty drawback rates are reduced, he said.

The industry had given its suggestions to the Government on the rates. “We expect that the benefits given to exporters now are continued without reduction,” he said.

The Union Government should extend the export benefits till business revived and ensure that the pre-GST export competitiveness of the industry was sustained, he said. The Government should also expedite clearing all the pending export benefits, Mr. Nataraj added.

Revised drawback rates to hit textile exporters - Union Government to implement it from October 1

The Hindu September 25, 2017

Coimbatore: Reduction in drawback rates will be a blow to textile and clothing exports, according to industry sources here.

The Union Government has announced revised drawback rates that will come into effect from October 1.



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<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/revised-drawback-rates-to-hit-textile-exporters/article19749945.ece>

The Apparel Export Promotion Council said it was in consultation with the drawback committee and the ministries concerned for consideration of several embedded and blocked taxes that are not covered in GST or drawback.

The industry was expecting continuation of the present drawback rates till the consultations were completed.

The low drawback rate announced for apparels is a blow when the industry is facing continuous decline in exports, said the council in a press release.

The Union Government announced a special package in 2016 to boost garment and made-up exports and enhanced the drawback rates and ROSL under it. The reduction in drawback rates now removes the benefits for exporters. The levies have undergone changes under GST and the Government should take into consideration these too. It should refund all the blocked, embedded taxes and levies and also the accumulated input tax credit.

The Government should have a re-look at the drawback rates for textiles, said chairman of Southern India Mills' Association, P. Nataraj.

There is 7%-8% month-on-month drop in readymade garment exporters and the main reason cited is appreciation of rupee against the dollar.

When exports are already under stress and when the industry is not clear on the input tax credit that would be available, the industry should be supported, added Prabhu Dhamodaran, secretary of Indian Texpreneurs Federation.

Migrants

Labourers rescued

The Hindu September 22, 2017

Coimbatore: Three migrant labourers from Chhattisgarh, who were working in Coimbatore and allegedly trafficked for commission by several agents, were rescued following the intervention of trade union members here and brought back to city.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/labourers-rescued/article19732206.ece>

According to S. Krishnamoorthi, district general secretary of CITU for the welfare of migrant labourers, the workers from Chattisgarh were initially working at a private company at Chinnakuyili.

They were passed on from one agent to the other in Erode, Salem and Attur, and were handed over to Rangasamy in Ulundurpet for a commission of Rs. 68,000. Following hardship faced at Rangasamy's workplace, one of the workers contacted his relatives and passed on the vehicle number of Rangasamy. The relatives contacted CITU Coimbatore unit who eventually held discussions with the agents and Rangasamy for their release. "The Kattoor police refused to register a case. They also threatened the workers not to lodge the complaint," Mr. Krishnamoorthi alleged.

The CITU wing has decided to call on the City Police Commissioner on Friday and submit a petition.

The Kattoor police said they did not receive any complaint in this regard

Bonus

SIMA advised to distribute Deepavali bonus

Theekkathir Septemner 15, 2017

Tirupur: SIMA has been advised to distribute the Deepavali bonus to workers.

Millions of workers are employed in thousands of garment companies and the job work industries in Tirupur. It is customary on the eve of the Deepavali festival for the workers to return to their native places for the celebration. Since the Deepavali festival falls early in the current year, the trade unions have presently become involved in talks with the industrialists and have placed workers' demands before the industrialists.

The Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) President, A. C. Eswaran, released a circular on Wednesday. He declared that the trade unions have placed their demands on behalf of workers. The principal demand is that the Deepavali bonus for the year 2017 be provided to the workers in advance and also at an increased amount. He further advised SIMA members to hold negotiation talks on the basis of individual capacity in advance.

Provide bonus even to the northern state labourers demand raised in the migrant workers union conference

Theekkadhir, September 18, 2017

Coimbatore: It was emphasised in the conference of the migrant workers' union that northern-state workers should also be provided a Deepavali bonus.

The Coimbatore District general agreement and migrant workers' union conference was held for the first time last Sunday.

The conference was presided over by Nagarajan. C. Pramanaban, the CITU's District President, inaugurated the conference and delivered his special speech. N. Selvaraj, the CITU's Assistant District Secretary, blessed the conference and S. Krishnamoorthy, Convener, spoke on the report. A large number of workers from the entire district of Kovai were present and also participated.

On the eve of the conference a number of resolutions were passed. Firstly, that the rules of law for the years 1979 and 1981 pertaining to northern workers should be implemented. Secondly, that the workers who have migrated in search of employment might receive support in providing education for their children and that the necessary arrangements must be made for those children to learn in their mother tongue. Third, all workers must be given an equal salary without distinction in the production. Fourthly, an order must be issued to provide bonus to all the workers. In fifth place, the labourers who speak Hindi must be given ration cards and gas cylinder facilities. Finally, false criminal charges should not be made against northern state workers and workers should not be disturbed without proper reason.

At the conference, new office bearers were elected as follows: C. Chandran as President; S. Krishnamoorthy as General Secretary; R. Jegadeshwaran as Treasurer; Rajasekar, Franklin and A. Kannusamy were elected as Assistant Office Bearers. At the end, Arunagirinathan the Vice President of CITU's Kovai District delivered his speech.

More bonuses must be given to the banian workers resolution by the LPF

Dinakaran, September 20, 2017

Tirupur: The executive committee meeting was held in the Labour Progressive Federation's (LPFs) trade union in the union office in Kumaran Road, Tirupur. Balasubramaniam, union President, presided over the event. In attendance were

Ramakrishnan (General Secretary), Boopathy (Treasurer), and other persons including Thangaraj, Mayilsami, C. R. Rajendran, Narayanasamy, Rajendran, Natchimuthu, Ravi, Jeena Murugam, Ravichandran, Babu, Prabakaran, Elango, Suresh and Senthil.

A resolution was passed in the meeting that an agitation that will take place near the Kumaran statue at 6 pm on the 26th September. The agitation is part of the measures to insist that the banian company owners provide an increased bonus to all of the time rate and piece rate banian workers before 15 days.

The roads in the Tirupur corporation area are full of potholes due to the flyover construction work being carried out near the old bus stand. The industrial city of Tirupur has been severely affected. The industrialists, workers and the general public are facing a lot of problems as a result of the construction and would like the construction to be completed at the earliest. Special buses must be operational before 15 days in such a way to enable the garment workers to travel to their native places in order to celebrate the Deepavali festival and return safely. The above resolution was passed in the meeting conducted.

Decision of MLF

Daily Thanthi September 22, 2017

Tirupur: Related to the Deepavali bonus, a special meeting of the banian workers' progressive union was conducted in the MLF office of Tirupur yesterday.

Sekar, President of the union, presided over the event. Manokar, Secretary, was also present. Sivabalan (Corporation Secretary of MDMK), Sampath, Ramasamy, Kasiraj, Chandran, Sekar (Vice President), Appu, (Assistant Secretary), Eswaramoorthy, Palanisamy and the executive committee members also participated in the event.

The following resolution was passed during the meeting: all kinds of workers employed in various sections of the banian companies must be provided with an increased bonus in accordance with the hiked prices of essential commodities from the previous year. The bonus must be paid before 15 days and the strike will be conducted on the 10th October onwards in front of the companies that fail to pay the bonus on time. Vadivel, Treasurer of the union, conveyed the vote of thanks.

To the banian workers – CITU insists to pay more bonuses before twenty days

Theekkadhira September 26, 2017

Tirupur: The general banian workers' union under the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) has asked employers to pay an increased bonus to the piece rate workers and contract labourers employed in the garment industry before 20 days prior to the Deepavali Festival.

Regarding this, G. Sampath, the General Secretary of the CITU had written a letter on the last 23rd September to various garment factories. Accordingly, the garment industry is projected to earn one lakh crore rupees as foreign exchange through both its export and domestic markets for which production has increased. It is through the hard work rendered by the garment workers alone that this projection is achievable. However, it is because of the policies of the central and state governments that the essential basic requirements of workers have increased in cost. The increased expenditure relates to areas such as healthcare, rent and education. The workers are facing a lot of difficulties in their life due to the increased cost of living.

To manage the workers' financial commitments, the bonus amount from the previous year must be increased, notably before the approach of the Deepavali festival. Similarly, as per the notes issued on May 25th by the Joint Director of Industrial Safety and Health, the bonus amount must be calculated as per the bonus rule. That is, in accordance with the percentage to the piece rate workers and the contract labourers working in the garment companies (and associated companies) before the occurrence of the Deepavali festival. Negotiation talks must be held in order to resolve this issue.





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