

Shri Naishadh Parikh, Chairman, CITI and Secretary General, CITI met Smt. Rashmi Verma, Secretary (Textiles) yesterday, along with the leadership of AEPC to discuss range of common issues concerning the textile industry. The Secretary (Textiles) appreciated that the industry has come united and made a comment that "If the industry work together like this, industry will not face issues" and she said that it facilitates us to expedite matters"

We raised the following issues:

1. Proposed Amendment in the Contract Labour Central Rules, 1971 (Minimum Wages of Contract Workers @ Rs.10,000/- per month).

CITI had earlier made a representation in this regard on the basis of the statement of Union Labour Minister reported in the newspaper. AEPC also submitted a representation on the issue. The Secretary (Textiles) stated that they are in discussion with the Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment. Commenting on the newspaper reports, she said that such change would require a legislative process and expected consultation on the draft notification issued on 31st March. It was also decided that textiles and apparels sectors will make a joint appeal to the Secretary (L&E).

2. TUFS Issues

Chairman, CITI raised the issue of Rs.7000 Cr. backlog in TUFS. He also highlighted that industry is passing through one of the toughest periods and disbursement of this amount would ease part of the problem faced by the industry. It would be good if the disbursement plan can be finalized and shared for industry to plan their finances and operations. Chairman also shared his concern that it would be unfortunate if NPA happens as a result of non-disbursal of pending TUFS entitlement. The Secretary (Textiles) informed the industry that they were taking up the issue of release of further allocation with Ministry of Finance. In the current financial year only Rs.1356 crore has been earmarked in the budget. Chairman enquired as to when would the supplementary demand be raised for the balance amount and she said it is likely to be in the monsoon session of Parliament. In line with the above sanctioned funds, an amount of Rs. 140-150 crore has been released for disbursement for April. She further stated that there would be no amendment in the new TUF scheme as PMO was not in the interest of continuing with the scheme. Later, we found out from the ministry officials that the disbursement would be as under:

- Rs 76 cr. for the committed liability;
- Rs. 30 Cr under M-TUFS; and
- Another Rs.47 cr. approval has been sent to Office of Textile commissioner for M-TUFS, RR-TUFS.