PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

Times of India, Delhi
Thu, 21 Jul 2016, Page 10
Width: 13.70 cms, Height: 38.49 cms, a3, Ref: 48.2016-07-21.77

TN garment workers win 30% pay hike

Allirajan.M@timesgroup.com

Coimbatore: The Madras high court court has ordered a pay rise of up to 30 per cent for hundreds of thousands of garment workers in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, the first minimum wage hike in more than 12 years.

But lawyers for 500 clothing manufacturers and exporters, who supply many international brands, said the new wages would be "practically impossible" to introduce given the tough global market conditions.

The Tamil Nadu government had notified separate minimum wages for the hosiery segment that covered export units as well, which would not be impacted by the move, top industry officials said.

Only about 20,000-30,000 of the 3 lakh-odd workers in garment units would be covered by the hike in minimum wages. Since a large number of workers in knitted garment factories work on a job rate, piece rate and contractual basis, there would be no impact on the industry, officials said.

Interestingly, the agitation over premature withdrawal of provident fund (PF) that turned violent in Bengaluru in April, did not create any ripples in Tirupur, the largest knitwear production cluster in the country.

"Most workers in knitwear units are employed on a contractual basis and do not get benefits such as PF and gratuity," industry sources said. The state government increased minimum wages by nearly 30% for garment units in 2014. While makers of woven garments went to the court opposing the move, knitted garment manufacturers approached the government, which notified separate minimum wages for these units. Both knitted and woven garment units had to pay minimum wages of about Rs 7,500 per month before the hike.

But with the woven units challenging the hike, knitted garment makers who did not opt for the legal route got minimum wages for their units fixed at around Rs 9,600 per month. This is almost Rs 1,100 lower what woven garment units were to pay after the hike.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

Hindu, Delhi
Thu, 21 Jul 2016, Page 11
Width: 45.43 cms, Height: 55.41 cms, a3, Ref: 34.2016-07-21.26

How to get the weave right

The government must target labour market rigidities to maximise gainful employment in the textile sector


SEEMA BATHLA | PRATEEK KUKREJA

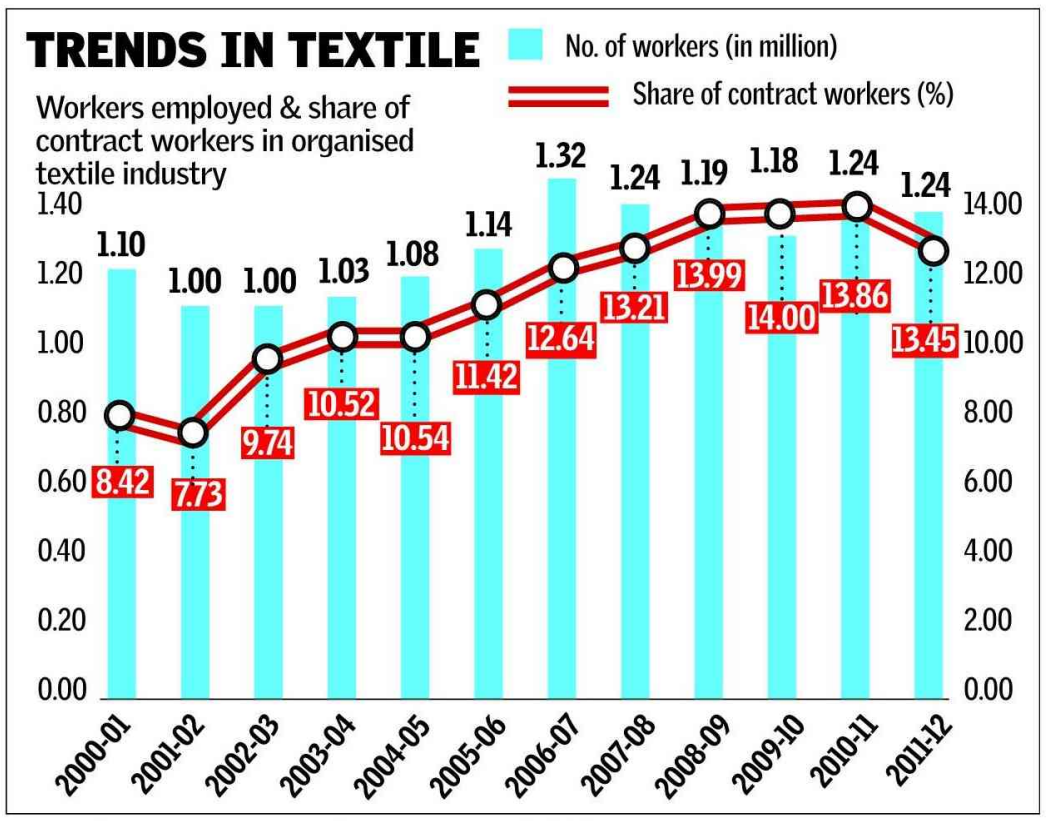
India's textile and apparel industry is all set for an overhaul as the new National Textile Policy will soon be placed before the Cabinet for approval. The government has already accepted a Rs.60 billion special package for this sector with an aim to create 10 million new jobs in the next three years, attract investments of $11 billion, as well as generate an additional $30 billion in exports. The key measures that have been approved include additional incentives for duty drawback scheme for garments, flexibility in labour laws to increase productivity, and tax and production incentives for job creation in garment manufacturing. As part of the reform agenda, the Ministry of Textiles would also seek to lower excise duty on man-made fibre to 6 per cent from the existing 12 per cent. It has also placed on the table other specific interventions to encourage value addition so that India becomes an exporter of value-added (garment) products rather than just raw material (fibre and yarn).

Maze of labour regulations

Undoubtedly, the 'textile package' has set the ball rolling for a much-needed reform agenda. The organised textile industry has been facing a slowdown for quite some time, due to which a large number of mills are reported to have shut. Workers who have been displaced are left with no choice other than to move to the unorganised segment or work on a contractual basis.

It has been reiterated time and again that the stringent labour laws and the cumbersome nature of compliance with labour regulations and norms act as a barrier to growth of the manufacturing sector. The textile industry is affected the most owing to its labour-intensive nature and hence high potential to absorb people. While the government has agreed to reform the archaic labour laws to generate more employment in this industry, in some cases it may require changes in the legislation, which is a challenge in itself. The system of labour regulations in India is quite complex, with over 200 labour laws, including 52 Central Acts. In their book *India's Tryst with Destiny*, Jagdish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya maintained that it is impossible to comply with 100 per cent of the labour laws without violating at least 20 per cent. Each State has its own way of dealing with the industry and making amendments in the labour laws.

Among many laws, the biggest challenge is to bring reforms in the Industrial Disputes Act (IDA), 1947, that forms the basis for regulation of job security in the organised manufacturing segment, due to strict dismissal norms laid down under it. As per Chapter V-B of the Act, any firm employing 100 or more workers has to seek permission from the labour department, with jurisdiction over the firm, before any layoffs or retrenchment. The concerned labour department rarely gives such permission, even in cases where the unit is unprofitable and on the verge of closure. As a result, the industry may find it advantageous to either employ people on a contractual basis or shift to the unorganised segment.



Source: Based on annual survey of industry data, MOSPI,CSO

Contract workers as an expedient

The restrictive impact of this Act and also other regulations impinge largely upon industries such as textiles majorly employing unskilled or low-skilled workers. The problem becomes more intricate knowing that the textile industry has a significant number of women workers on the rolls, which may require modifications in the existing laws along with new schemes and incentives to retain them.

Statistics show that India's textile industry is the second largest employer after agriculture, providing direct employment to around 45 million people. The sector also accounts for 14 per cent of India's total industrial production, which is close to 4 per cent of the country's gross domestic product. The annual rate of growth in employment in the organised sector has been modest at 2 per cent since 2000-01 with some signs of deceleration, especially from 2007, a period that coincided with the removal of the Multi Fibre Arrangement that governed world trade in textiles and garments with quotas on exports from developing countries to developed countries. However, an increase in employment is accompanied by a growing share of contract workers in total workers from 8.42 per cent to 13.45 per cent (see graphic). The trend in organised manufacturing overall is similar to that observed in the textile sector, where the share of contract workers has risen from 21.3 per cent to 34.6 per cent during this period.

> An increase in employment is accompanied by a growing share of contract workers in total workers from 8.42% to 13.45%

An increasing informalisation of employment within the formal sector could be explained by the labour market rigidities and growing competition, among other factors. The industry may employ temporary or contract workers in a bid to escape Chapter V-B of the Act despite the contract labour system being more expensive. Furthermore, the share of contract workers in total workers is much higher in firms employing less than 100 workers, and not falling under the ambit of Chapter V-B of the IDA. The share has significantly gone up in two segments, viz. preparation and spinning of textile fibres and weaving of textiles, from 8.21 per cent to 20.72 per cent and 18.38 per cent to 24.95 per cent in a span of 11 years. It is much higher compared to the firms employing more than 100 workers falling outside the domain of Chapter V-B.

This clearly indicates that the organised industry could be following an escape route by employing contract workers to replace the regular workers. Since firms employing less than 100 workers do not fall under the ambit of the Chapter V-B, they have an incentive to remain outside by hiring more contract workers. On the other hand, the firms which have already crossed this threshold of 100 workers have a much lower incentive to hire contract workers.

Towards gainful employment

Such informal arrangements may hamper the industry's growth in productivity and development in the long run. The trend, which has been continuing since the nineties, needs to be reversed. The Economic Survey 2016 has rightly pointed out that stringent labour regulations act as "regulatory cholesterol", inhibiting the industry from generating employment and hiring regular workers. It is therefore important that as part of the 'textile package' the government should at least try to reduce, if not remove labour market rigidities for creation of gainful employment. Provision of better wages to casual workers, along with social security and other benefits, will contribute to higher productivity. The industry would also avoid hiring contract workers, be able to reduce contracting cost and move towards expansion. Some propositions have been in the offing, such as considering fixed-term workers on a par with permanent workers in terms of wages and allowances, providing tax benefits to firms employing permanent workers for at least 150 days, making provident fund contribution by employees earning less than Rs.15,000 per month optional, and the government contributing on behalf of the employer towards Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for the first three years.

These initiatives, if implemented, can go a long way in reviving growth and generating gainful employment in the textile industry. The government must also focus on bringing amendments in the IDA which may otherwise act as a stumbling block. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana are making some headway in this direction. There are provisions to reform labour laws in the new textile policy. It is hoped that the Ministry of Textiles under Smriti Irani will get the new National Textile Policy approved and speed up the reforms. Much depends on how capably she would fast-track flexibility in labour laws and regulations with cooperation from the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Seema Bathla and Prateek Kukreja are with the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, JNU.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

DNA, Mumbai
Wed, 20 Jul 2016, Page 2
Width: 32.05 cms, Height: 15.02 cms, a3r, Ref: 4.2016-07-21.9

After years of rise, cotton cultivation dips: CCI statistics

Kanchan Srivastava
Kanchan.srivastava@dnaindia.net

After a steady rise over the years, cotton cultivation in the country has declined by 8% this year. The national cotton acreage has come down from 128 lakh hectare to 118 lakh hectare between 2014-15 to 2015-16, revealed latest Cotton Corporation (CCI) of India statistics.

The CCI had earlier predicted higher cotton acreage for 2015-16. Now, the total cotton output of India is also expected to be a dismal 352 lakh bales, compared to the 380 lakh bales a year ago. A large number of cotton growing farmers are supposed to have switched to food crops such as soybean for better returns this time.

Generally, farmers prefer cotton as it requires lesser water. Recession in the global market last year, however, has led to a crash in cotton prices, which has alerted the growers now. In addition, poor yield, high cultivation cost and decreasing resistance of BT cotton have made it less lucrative over the years, according to activists.

Barring Punjab, Gujarat and MP, all cotton growing states have witnessed a huge drop in acreage this year. Tamil Nadu topped the chart with one-third of the cotton land going to other crops. Maharashtra – the second largest cotton growing state in the country after Gujarat – has witnessed a 9% decline (from 42 lakh hectare to 38 lakh hectare) in cotton sowing. A campaign of "withdraw cotton" has also been launched in the state last year, which seems to have started showing its results.

Last year's recession in the cotton market, reduced exports to China and the US, international stock hoarding and skewed minimum support price (MSP) are supposed to be the prime factors behind the sudden decline in cultivation of this 'cash crop', which has propelled India's rural economy over the last decade. MSP for cotton has been fixed at Rs3,750 for medium staple and Rs4,050 for long staple. It was almost double five years ago.

Cotton crop acreage drops by 8% nationally

Farmer activist Kishor Tiwari hailed the trend. "Maharashtra started growing BT cotton in 2004. That is the year when the crisis of farmer suicides took off in Maharashtra. Most of those who took their lives were cotton growers. BT cotton didn't give them good returns due to rising cultivation cost, staggering yield, increasing resistance and other factors."

Despite crop failure and rising farmer suicides, cotton cultivation in Maharashtra increased 35% over a decade. "Now, we can expect a sharp decline in suicides as well," said Tiwari, who has been heading the state's mission for 14 distressed districts for the last one-and-a-half years. He said suicides in Yavatmal have halved this year and gave credit to the withdraw cotton campaign spearheaded by him.

The Union government launched 'Technology Mission on Cotton' in 2000, introducing the "high-yielding" BT cotton. While the government claimed that the BT cotton helped the yield per hectare to jump from 300kg to 500-550kg per hectare, the world average of 700-800kg per hectare made such claims hollow.

Nevertheless, the domestic textile industry might bear the brunt of all this. Anticipation of low cotton production has already led to a sudden jump in the cotton and yarn price. This spells tough time for the sector that is already under stress due to skewed global demand for the last two years.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

Assam Tribune, Guwahati
Tue, 19 Jul 2016, Page 11
Width: 11.68 cms, Height: 13.60 cms, a4, Ref: 19.2016-07-21.18

Textile body seeks reforms in CCI

COIMBATORE, July 18: There is a need to bring in reforms in Cotton Corporation India in view of the Textiles Ministry directing it to sell cotton only to end users like spinning mills, an industry body has suggested.

Since the directive will give a boost to "Make in India", a fresh study should be carried out to know how Indian textile industry can use CCI for its benefit and bring in reforms to suit today's changing global environment, Secretary of Indian Texpreneurs Federation (ITF) Prabhu Dhamodaran said.

Stating that many in the industry strongly believed that CCI selling cotton to traders was also leading to speculation of prices and availability, Prabhu said the ministry has taken a right direction to support millions of farmers and also industry, which is giving employment to millions of workers.

India, being the leading producer of cotton in the world, should use the home grown cotton in its favour of manufacture and export value added products, he said.

But, being a seasonal commodity, many in the trade are creating speculation, which leads to artificial price rise in middle and end of the cotton season on a yearly basis. – PTI

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

Dainik Bhaskar, Delhi
Thu, 21 Jul 2016, Page 6
Width: 16.36 cms, Height: 31.72 cms, a3, Ref: 47.2016-07-21.78

श्रम प्रधान क्षेत्रों में घटे रोजगार के अवसर

2015 में केवल 1.35 लाख को ही मिली नई नौकरी

एजेंसी | नई दिल्ली

कपड़ा, ऑटोमोबाइल, आईटी जैसी श्रम प्रधान व निर्यातोन्मुखी इकाइयां वर्ष 2015 के दौरान रोजगार के नए अवसर सृजित करने में विफल रही है। श्रम प्रधान व निर्यातोन्मुखी क्षेत्रों में रोजगार के अवसरों में 67.93 फीसदी की कमी आई है। संसद में दी गई जानकारी के मुताबिक वर्ष 2015 के दौरान केवल 1.35 लाख लोगों को ही इन क्षेत्रों में नई नौकरी मिली है।

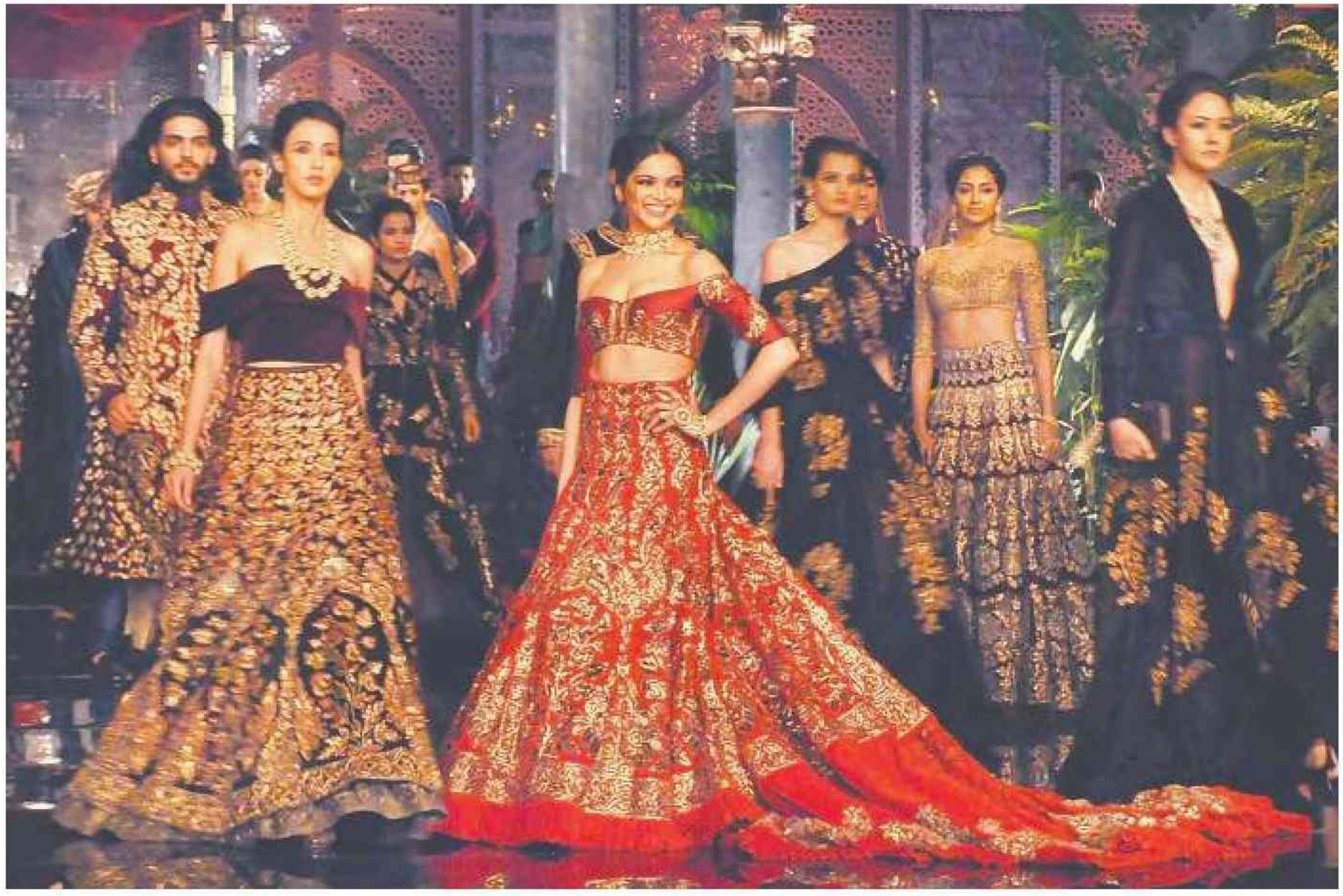
लेबर ब्यूरो के क्वार्टरली क्विक एम्प्लायमेंट सर्वे (क्यूईएस) के मुताबिक जनवरी से दिसंबर 2014 के दौरान 4.21 लाख लोगों को नई नौकरी मिली थी, जबकि जनवरी से दिसंबर 2015 के दौरान केवल 1.35 लाख लोगों को ही नई नौकरी मिली। केंद्रीय वाणिज्य मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमन ने राज्यसभा सदस्यों के सवालों के जबाव में बताया कि क्वार्टरली क्विक एम्प्लायमेंट सर्वे अपैरल, कपड़ा, मेटल, जैम एंड ज्वेलरी, ऑटोमोबाइल, ट्रांसपोर्ट, आईटी व बीपीओ, लैदर, हैंडलूम व पावरलूम जैसे श्रम प्रधान व निर्यातोन्मुखी क्षेत्रों में सृजित रोजगार के लिए किया जाता है। सर्वे में बताया गया है कि आर्थिक गतिविधियां कमजोर होने से भारत में रोजगार के नए अवसरों में कमी आई है। वाणिज्य मंत्री ने कहा कि यह आंकड़े संपूर्ण उत्पादन क्षेत्र के नहीं है। क्यूईएस में सभी विनिर्माण इकाइयों में रोजगार अवसरों का सर्वे नहीं किया जाता। हालांकि कपड़ा, अपैरल, मेटल, जैम एंड ज्वेलरी ऑटोमोबाइल, लैदर, हैंडलूम व पावरलूम जैसे आठ क्षेत्र विनिर्माण क्षेत्र का हिस्सा है।

ब्रेक्विट के असर का आकलन मुश्किल

सरकार ने बुधवार को लोकसभा में कहा कि ब्रिटेन के यूरोपीय संघ से बाहर होने से भारत और भारतीय समुदाय पर कितना असर होगा, इसका तुरंत आकलन करना मुश्किल है। लोकसभा सदस्यों की ओर से पूछे गए सवालों के जबाव में विदेश राज्यमंत्री वी.के सिंह ने कहा कि लंदन स्थित भारत के उच्चायुक्त ब्रिटेन के यूरोपीय संघ से बाहर होने पर भारत व भारतीय समुदाय पर पड़ने वाले असर का आकलन कर रहे हैं। इससे पहले महीने की शुरुआत में वाणिज्य व उद्योग मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमन ने कहा था कि ब्रिटेन के यूरोपीय संघ से बाहर होने के फैसले के बाद भारत व ब्रिटेन मुक्त व्यापार की संभावना टटोल रहे हैं।

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

Amar Ujala, Delhi
Thu, 21 Jul 2016, Page 6
Width: 24.27 cms, Height: 18.41 cms, a3r, Ref: 36.2016-07-21.33



होटल ताज पैलेस में एफडीसीआई द्वारा आयोजित इंडिया कौचर वीक-2016 के पहले दिन डिजाइनर मनीष मल्होत्रा के शो में जलवे बिखेरती बॉलीवुड अभिनेत्री दीपिका पादुकोण। फोटोः कुमार संजय

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

Nai Dunia, Delhi
Thu, 21 Jul 2016, Page 9
Width: 32.48 cms, Height: 23.55 cms, a3r, Ref: 39.2016-07-21.54

बेस मेटल्स की तेजी पर लगा ब्रेक

आईएमएफ की ओर से ग्लोबल इकोनॉमी की ग्रोथ घटने के अनुमान का असर

मुंबई। एजेंसी

अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (आईएमएफ) की तरफ से वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था की विकास दर का अनुमान घटाए जाने की वजह से बुधवार को बेस मेटल्स की तेजी पर ब्रेक लग गई।

घरेलू बाजार में कॉपर और निकल समेत सभी मेटल में गिरावट देखी गई। इसका असर चांदी पर भी पड़ा और घरेलू व अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में इसका भाव करीब 0.25 फीसदी घट गया। एल्यूमीनियम 0.25 फीसदी गिरावट के साथ 110 रुपए से नीचे तक आ गया। कॉपर 0.5 फीसदी टूटकर 340 रुपए से नीचे तक गया, जबकि निकल 0.15 फीसदी बढ़त लेकर 705 रुपए के आसपास रहा।

कॉटन में भारी गिरावट

एग्री कमोडिटी में कॉटन का भाव करीब

3 फीसदी गिर गया। 2 दिन के कारोबार में इसमें 1 हजार रुपए से ज्यादा की गिरावट आ चुकी है, जबकि क्रूड पाम तेल में तेजी रही। निर्यात की उम्मीद में ग्वारगम की कीमत में भी तकरीबन 2.5 फीसदी उछल आया।

चना सभी दलहन से आगे

हाजिर में चने ने सभी दालों को पीछे छोड़ दिया है। इसका भाव अरहर से भी ऊपर चला गया। दिल्ली में यह 9 हजार रुपए प्रति क्विंटल से ऊपर है, जबकि इंदौर में 8.5 हजार रुपए क्विंटल से ऊपर तक गया। गौर करने वाली बात है कि केवल चने में तेजी आई, जबकि दूसरी दालें कमोबेश स्थिर रहीं। देश में इस साल करीब 55 लाख टन चने की पैदावार हुई है, जो पिछले साल के मुकाबले करीब 25 फीसदी कम है।

धनिए में हल्की तेजी

एनसीडीईएक्स पर धनिया का अगस्त वायदा 0.6 फीसदी तेजी के साथ 7,835 रुपए के आसपास रहा। ग्वारगम का अक्टूबर वायदा भी 2 फीसदी गिरावट के साथ 7,270 रुपए के करीब रहा।

कच्चे तेल में गिरावट

कच्चे तेल के भाव में गिरावट का रुझान बना रहा। अमेरिका में इंवेंटरी के हफ्तावार आंकड़ जारी होने से पहले ट्रेडर नई पोजिशन बनाने से बच रहे हैं। इस बीच रूस ने इस बात से इनकार किया है कि वह तेल उत्पादन में कटौती पर विचार कर रहा है। बहरहाल, अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में ब्रेंट कच्चे तेल की कीमत 47 डॉलर से नीचे बनी हुई है। एमसीएक्स पर कच्चा तेल 0.15 फीसदी गिरकर 3,075 रुपए के आसपास रहा। प्राकृतिक गैस का भाव भी 1.2 फीसदी कम होकर 180 रुपए के करीब रहा।

कमोडिटी में ऑप्शन ट्रेडिंग को मिल सकती है हरी झंडी

कमोडिटी में ऑप्शन ट्रेडिंग को जल्द बाजार नियामक सेबी से मंजूरी मिल सकती है। इस हफ्ते 22 जुलाई को सेबी में रमेश चांद समति की अहम बैठक है। यह समति कमोडिटी बाजार का दायरा बढ़ाने के उपायों पर विचार कर रही है। माना जा रहा है का इस बैठक में ऑप्शन ट्रेडिंग को लेकर सहमति बन सकती है।

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

Business Line, Delhi
Thu, 21 Jul 2016, Page 2
Width: 16.26 cms, Height: 18.36 cms, a4, Ref: 31.2016-07-21.20

SVP Global sets up textile unit in Rajasthan

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 20

SVP Global Ventures, a diversified yarn manufacturing company, has commissioned one lakh spindles textile plant at Jhalawar in Rajasthan.

The fully automated plant has manufacturing capacity of 22,000 tonnes per annum. The first phase of the project will employ 500 people and provide a stable source of livelihood to over 30,000 farmers, said the company in the BSE statement on Wednesday.

The plant will manufacture combed compact yarn which will be exported to many countries, including China. The project will generate higher margins as compared to other spinning mills, it said.

As part of the Rajasthan government's package, SVP has derived significant advantages like interest subsidy, VAT benefit and electricity duty rebate

Chirag Pittie, Managing Director, SVP Global Ventures said the textile plant is commissioned under resurgent Rajasthan project on 25 acre land in nine months.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

Financial Express, Delhi
Thu, 21 Jul 2016, Page 3
Width: 51.34 cms, Height: 25.26 cms, a3r, Ref: 37.2016-07-21.109

Job creation in labour-intensive, export-oriented sectors down 68%

New Delhi, July 20: Job creation in labour-intensive and export-oriented sectors, including textiles, automobiles, IT/BPO, declined 67.93% in 2015, with net addition of employment coming down to 1.35 lakh during the year, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

"According to Labour Bureau's Quarterly Quick Employment Survey (QES), estimated employment experienced a net addition of 4.21 lakh (persons) and 1.35 lakh (persons)... in January 2014 to December 2014, and January 2015 to December 2015, respectively," commerce and industry minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. The estimated employment for export-oriented sector saw a net addition of 1.22 lakh persons in January-December 2015, she added.

The Labour Bureau conducts quarterly survey in select labour-intensive and export-oriented sectors

The Labour Bureau conducts quarterly QES in select labour-intensive and export-oriented sectors such as textiles, including apparel, metals, gems and jewellery; automobiles; transport; IT/BPO; leather and handloom/power-loom to assess the effect of economic slowdown on employment in India.

She said data pertaining to the whole of manufacturing sector is not collected under the QES of the Labour Bureau. "However, out of the eight selected sectors, textiles, including apparel, metals, gems and jewellery; automobiles; leather and handloom/power-loom are part of the manufacturing sector," she added. *PTI*

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
भारत सरकार

Financial Chronicle, Delhi
Thu, 21 Jul 2016, Page 8
Width: 6.06 cms, Height: 34.49 cms, a3, Ref: 42.2016-07-21.67

Iran may cut duty by 25% on Indian garments

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA

New Delhi

INDIA may increase nearly five-fold its garments export to Iran as the west Asian country is set to reduce import duty on Indian products by about 25 per cent.

The exports may reach $100 million in two years from $21 million in 2015, said Ashok G Rajani, chairman of apparel export promotion council (AEPC). India's share in Iran's total garments imports may also jump to 15 per cent from 2.5 per cent.

Exports have increased 81.1 per cent from $11.6 million in 2014, he said. Iran imports garments from many nations including China.

Major commodities that Iran imports include non-electrical machinery (17 per cent of total imports), iron and steel (14 per cent), chemicals and related products (11 per cent). While it buys about 31 per cent of its total requirements from the UAE, the second supplier is China with 17 per cent share.

"Positive results have started flowing and Iran has agreed to reduce tariffs on Indian products by 20-25 per cent," Rajani said. India would become the largest textile exporter to Iran after an agreement has been signed, he added.

The AEPC, export promotion council of the commerce ministry, has signed a MoU with the Tehran garment union (TGU), an association of manufacturers and retailers that work with Iran's government. It will be valid for one year. Iranian business licences are not issued by government, rather by guild unions that are part of the private sector. TGU's licence is necessary to produce or sell garment in Iran.

prabhudatta.m
@mydigitalfc.com