

IAF, PRGMEA urge govt to exempt cotton yarn from taxes, duties

SIALKOT: The Regional President of International Apparel Federation (IAF) and Chief Coordinator Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA) Ijaz A. Khokhar has foresees that Pakistan can capture a much bigger share in the global market of value-added textile.

Talking to Business Recorder on Tuesday he said that in order to achieve milestone to enhance exports, it is crucial for government to facilitate the export sector and revise its policies which were creating hurdles in the promotion of exports he said. Ijaz said that without the due support of the government exporters were unable to grab the share of global market.

He suggested the ways and means for bringing out the Textile sector from crisis adding that despite of certain odds the business community engaged with textile sector was making adequate efforts for increasing the export of the country.

He suggested that government should exempt cotton yarn from all types of taxes and duties for encouraging this value-added sector. He further added that Apparel industry should be allowed to import fabric as the weaving industry was unable to fulfil growing demand of fashion wear.

Ijaz further told that currently garment sector having a limited product line for export market due to non-availability of the latest fabric at local level adding that foreign buyers demanding new garment based on G3, G4 and technical fabric material and under the circumstance there was a great need of product diversified to compete in international market.

PRGMEA demanded that government should consider on the restoration of zero rated regime for five major export-oriented industries (Sports, Surgical, Leather, Carpet and Textile) on the priority basis for the survival of exports of the country. It is high time that government should announce previous system "No Payment No Refund" to save export sector of the country adding that the revival of zero rated regime is the basic remedial step for the export sector of the country he added.

He was of the opinion that there was dire need of setting up of support industry to facilitate the industrial sector of the country. The establishment of support industry would an addition in the industry sector of the country he said. He said that business community would be able to obtain all kind of raw material under one roof adding that export sector of the country heavily relies on import of raw materials especially China for further value-addition and exports and this practice adds to cost of doing business and is major contributor towards increasing import bill of Pakistan. Under the present circumstances there was a great need of setting up of support industry which would reduce the imports to serve as a source of raw material for the export industry of Sialkot he added.

We suggest that government should formulate a plan by taking all stakeholders on board for protecting export sector of the country which is under certain threats he said. He said that there was a great need of formulating long term and short term plans to cope with the current situation adding that government should focus on formulating sector wise and regional policies for boosting the exports of the country.