

Increase in exports: Leather industry disappointed on decision-making process

The leather manufacturing industry has expressed disappointed on the decision-making process of incumbent government with respect to increase in exports which are showing just three percent growth during the first quarter of the current fiscal year. Talking to Business Recorder, Chairman Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PLGMEA) Syed Shujat said the industry had held a number of meetings with authorities and apprised them of its woes but the final result of those meetings was just a disappointment.

The country's leather industry is the second largest industry after textiles. Leather goods that are made in Pakistan have been highly regarded on the international market however; the lack of government's focus on solving issues of the industry is not only putting barrier to its production capability but also restricting the future potential of the Pakistan leather garments industry.

He said the government authorities gave many assurances to the industry and pledged all-out support but they never fulfilled those commitments.

"The meetings with the top brass of Ministries of Commerce and Finance wrapped up with hope that the government will extend its support to the industry but nothing has been materialised so far which is very disappointing," he added. Shujat was of the view that the government had to focus on domestic industry if it intended to increase exports and bring down roaring trade deficit.

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