

Exporters ultimate sufferer of devalued PKR: Bilwani

KARACHI: Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA) chairman Jawed Bilwani on Friday termed devaluation of the rupee against dollar extremely disastrous for the nation and apprehended that the move could scale up import bill and inflation.

On completion of the first 100 days of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, Bilwani noted that Pakistan rupee has been devalued approximately 14 percent against dollar.

“The rupee devaluation will have a negative impact on exports, increase import bill of the country and unleash inflation, which may lead to anarchy and precarious law and order situation,” he warned, adding that would make commodities costlier and manufacturing sector would face a very difficult time.

Bilwani said that inputs to manufacture textile are widely imported from the world markets; therefore, he expressed concern that the rupee’s decline would make the key imports costlier for the industry.

He said that under current situation, industry would have two options: either close down or increase prices of their products further, besides becoming more uncompetitive in the international market. He said that foreign buyers demand discount due to devaluation of Pakistani currency.

The PHMA chairman said that impact of even 5 percent rupee depreciation would make imported raw material prices costlier by approximately 70 percent. He said exporters would have to bear loss from their own pocket due to depreciation whereas upshot of all this would be augmented inflation and the workers would demand raise in salaries also.

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