



# The Southern India Mills' Association

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### Labour Starved Mills in South India Lean on Northeast for Manpower

North East Today

<https://www.northeasttoday.in/labour-starved-mills-in-south-india-lean-on-northeast-for-manpower/>

Textile firms in South India have started looking at the North-Eastern states to address labour shortages in their factories. The mills have said that the Tripura government is the first to respond and that the units would soon come out with a code of conduct for migrant workers.

Tamil Nadu accounts for nearly 45 per cent of the spinning capacity in the country, 70 per cent of the knitted garment manufacturing capacity and 22 per cent of weaving. Around six million people are directly employed by the sector.

The sector has been facing labour shortage the past ten years or so, due to exponential growth in manufacturing facilities.

In major clusters like Coimbatore, Tirupur, Dindigul, migrant workers account for anything between 30 per cent and 90 per cent of the workforce, depending on the mills.

P Nataraj, chairman, SIMA, said that with the increase in demand for migrant workers across the nation, the mills started facing high attrition. Therefore, SIMA has started direct recruitment on its formal placement cell for its members, and is sourcing human resources from Tripura for starters.

Nataraj added that the mills face numerous problems in sourcing, mobilising, recruiting and retaining migrant workers for a reasonable period. In order to overcome these issues, SIMA had written to the Labour and Employment Departments of various states upcountry including the North Eastern States. The Government of Tripura immediately responded and came forward to extend all support for recruitment and organised an exclusive Job Fair with SIMA.

Around 4,000 unemployed youths, both male and female, attended the Job Fair from various districts of Tripura. The direct recruitment exercise would help the mills source the right candidates, Nataraj said.

He added that the Association would soon come out with a code of conduct for the employment of migrant workers as a proactive measure to meet all the legal and social requirements.

<b>Garment exporters list fake buyers to curb trade frauds</b>	<b>Deccan Chronicle</b> <a href="https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/160518/garment-exporters-list-fake-buyers-to-curb-trade-frauds.html">https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/160518/garment-exporters-list-fake-buyers-to-curb-trade-frauds.html</a>
<p>Tirupur: The increasing number of 'fake buyers' in the garment export sector has led to a huge loss for exporters in the Tirupur hub recently that it has prompted the Tirupur Exporters and Manufacturers Association (TEAMA) to draw up a 'blacklist' of such buyers to create awareness among the industrialists here.</p> <p>Many garment manufacturers in Tirupur hub depend on buyers who purchase garment products from them and export these to foreign countries. However, the intrusion of some 'fake buyers' into the business has led to heavy losses for manufacturers.</p> <p>Speaking about the issue, TEAMA president M P Muthu Rathinam said, "the leading garment export hub of Tirupur is witnessing such scams in recent times. 'Fake buyers' manage to get delivery of garment products from exporters and deceive them when settling amount for those products. Sometimes, the buyers debit huge amounts from exporters by finding defects in the products. In addition, some buying agents join hands with 'fake buyers' to dupe garment manufacturers."</p> <p>He noted that small and medium garment industries have suffered a lot and some of them have closed their units due to heavy losses. According to him, the association plans to identify these 'fake buyers and agents'.</p> <p>Mr Muthu Rathinam said that work was underway to open a website 'Killer buyers and their buying agents'. "Garment exporters, who were mercilessly duped by such fake buyers and agents, should post all details on the website. It will help other garment exporters to avoid being duped by them."</p> <p>He also proposed setting up a committee with legal advisors to help the suffering garment manufacturers to begin a legal fight against fraudulent buyers. Mr. Muthu Rathinam also called upon garment exporters to be vigilant to help control scams and wipe out fraud buyers and agents from the business.</p>	

<b>Merchants using 'puzzling GST' to cheat consumers</b>	<b>Times of India</b> <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/merchants-using-puzzling-gst-to-cheat-consumers/articleshow/64182041.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/merchants-using-puzzling-gst-to-cheat-consumers/articleshow/64182041.cms</a>
<p>Guntur: Merchants are using the confusion over different Goods Services Tax (GST) slabs to cheat consumers. The traders, who increased prices of several commodities citing implementation of the new tax regime, are now making huge profits by charging wrong tax rates. Unable to confront the traders, the consumers are paying the bills without a murmur.</p> <p>Analysts observed that different tax slabs for the same product is giving rise to this menace. For instance, GST is just 5 per cent on garments which costs less than Rs 1,000 per piece. The same garment will be charged with 12 per cent GST if its price is above Rs 1,000. At the time of implementation, the Centre said different rates would help the commoners. However, the on-ground reality is that the two slabs are helping the traders to mint money.</p>	

In small towns and villages, most garment purchases do not exceed the Rs 1,000-figure. Instead of levying 5 per cent GST, the traders are charging 12 per cent GST on all goods. Even in big malls, garments, including saris, which are available for less than Rs 1,000 are being tagged under 12 per cent GST.

Further, the traders are unwilling to furnish receipts even though all purchases above Rs 200 must have bills.

Similarly, GST on restaurant food was brought down to five per cent in last November. However, majority of the eateries continue to charge the previous rates of 12 per cent at restaurants without air-conditioners and 18 per cent at restaurants with air-conditioners.

Sources said merchants are managing two separate books of accounts. The first is for the consumers but this book has no legal identity. The other book is for the tax authorities where dubious payments are not recorded. Absence of surprise checks by the commercial tax department is reportedly helping traders to resort to malpractices. Surprisingly, just around 30 per cent of the traders who registered under the previous tax regime Value Added Tax (VAT), have enrolled under GST. "We wanted to give little cushion to the merchants to overcome the initial hurdles of GST. We will start inspections shortly," said a commercial taxes official.

**Uzbekistan keen to collaborate with Indian textiles, IT firms**

**Business Line**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/uzbekistan-keen-to-collaborate-with-indian-textiles-it-firms/article23892954.ece>

MoU with Union Textiles Ministry likely to be signed next week

AHMEDABAD, MAY 15

One of the world's largest cotton exporters, Uzbekistan is looking at Indian textiles companies for a possible collaboration. The former Soviet republic is likely to ink an agreement with the Union Textiles Ministry in this regard.

According to sources, a formal agreement on collaboration in the area of cotton and textiles sector may be inked between the two countries by next week. The country grows long-staple quality of cotton - equivalent to Egyptian cotton that matches the requirements of luxury garment brands.

On his two-day visit to Gujarat on May 14-15, Farhod Arziev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India, met State government and industry leaders from a variety of sectors, including textiles, information technology, hospitals, pharmaceuticals and tourism.

During his interaction with industry leaders at a meeting organised by FICCI on Tuesday, Arziev showcased the investment opportunities in this Central Asian country. He underlined the incentives being offered to the industry in the form of tax holidays, free land to joint ventures with Uzbek counterparts and cheap skilled workforce.

"Uzbekistan is a changed country now. They have 100 per cent convertible local currency, besides that, banks are supportive and quick to respond to the needs of trade and industry. The biggest advantage is the access to a huge market of former USSR or the CIS countries as there is a duty-free trade agreement with them," said Rajiv Vastupal,

Chairman of FICCI-Gujarat State Council.

Vastupal further added that top business houses, including Zydus hospitals, and Shalby hospitals, besides representatives from industries such as IT, tourism and pharmaceuticals sector attended the meeting with the Ambassador on Tuesday.

Earlier on Monday, the Ambassador had met Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani in Gandhinagar. He expressed keen interest for possible cooperation in the fields of pharmaceutical products, oil and natural gas, and mines, among others.

Rupani also invited Uzbekistan to be part of the coming Vibrant Summit in 2019, to which Arziev agreed and confirmed the participation of a high-level delegation.

However, industries raised concerns about the country being land-locked and far from a port thereby making it difficult for bulk goods industries to trade.

But according to Vastupal, Uzbekistan can offer a suitable eco-system to create back-office operations for Indian IT, telecom and tourism industries due to higher education level and cheap skilled labour.

<b>Surat's textile sector faces cost-push crisis as key input prices surge</b>	<b>Business Standard</b> <a href="http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/surat-s-textile-sector-faces-cost-push-crisis-as-key-imput-prices-surge-118051500463_1.html">http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/surat-s-textile-sector-faces-cost-push-crisis-as-key-imput-prices-surge-118051500463_1.html</a>
<p>Surat textile weavers and processors have entered their third crisis in one-and-a-half years. In November 2016, high-value currency notes were withdrawn, paralysing Surat as its economy was largely cash-based involving small processors and migrant employees. Last July, the industry was shut for long after the Goods and Service Tax was imposed, rendering a big blow to textile processors, whose cost increased sharply along with compliance burden.</p> <p>As if this was not enough, polyester yarn prices increased 6-8 per cent in the past one month and 12-15 per cent in past 3 months. Total cost increased along with other costs since January has been put at over 30 per cent. This is happening at a time when fabric demand is low. Demand will revive only when the festival season begins a few months later. Due to an extra month in Gujarati calendar, festivals will start with a month delay.</p> <p>Yesterday there was a meeting of all Surat power loom co-operatives and job workers involving hundreds and thousands of workers where they have proposed to reduce daily operating shifts from three to two. Several employees are also proceeding on leave. Reducing shift means fall in production. A leading composite mill executive said that post GST, there was a fall in a third of Surat synthetic fabric production.</p> <p>These industry associations/co-operatives have decided to work in two shifts of 6 hours or 8 hours, resulting in one third cut in production.</p> <p>Ashish Gujarati, President Pandesara Weavers Co-op Society Ltd. Surat, said, "Surat textile industry has not been doing well since GST was imposed. Fabric production has seen a significant fall. Now rising yarn prices have forced us</p>	

to cut production by reducing number of shifts we were working to save cost.”

Most weavers’ cooperatives and job works have together decided to cut one shift. If yarn is not weaved and fabric is not produced, job workers will not have that much processing work.

Dhiraj Shah, Managing Director for the Shalton Group explains that crude oil prices are rising consistently since many months. As a result, prices of petrochemicals like DMT, PTA, MEG etc are also rising. These are raw materials for producing polyester yarn largely used by Surat based power looms and hence said that, “at the time when slack demand season has begun, weavers have decided to cut production.”

Power looms have another problem which according to a decision in yesterday’s meeting will be represented to finance ministry. Synthetic fabric has 5 per cent GST but yarn attracts 12 per cent GST. This means when selling fabrics, they will not be able to claim full GST paid of yarn and hence huge amount of unused tax credit will remain in their books. "we have decided to seek refund of the unused tax credit in our books from the finance ministry," said a person present in the meeting.

<b>India's exports rise 5.17% in April</b>	<b>Economic Times</b> <a href="https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-exports-rise-5-17-in-april/articleshow/64177709.cms">https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-exports-rise-5-17-in-april/articleshow/64177709.cms</a>
<p>NEW DELHI: Buoyed by a rise in exports of engineering goods, handloom products and chemicals, India’s merchandise exports rose 5.17% in April after moderating for four months. Exports were \$25.91 billion last month, as per data released by commerce and industry ministry on Tuesday.</p> <p>Imports grew 4.6% in the first month of the new fiscal at \$39.63 billion leaving a trade deficit of \$13.72 billion, similar as March.</p> <p>Gold imports declined 33% imports last month to \$2.6 billion.</p> <p>Exports in sixteen out of 30 sectors grew and the major commodity groups of export showing positive growth year-on-year were engineering goods (17.63%), organic &amp; inorganic chemicals (38.48%), drugs &amp; pharmaceuticals (13.56%), cotton yarn/handloom products (15.66%) and plastics (30.03%)</p> <p>China’s exports rebounded in April and rose 12.9%.</p> <p>Services exports rose 7.16% in March at \$16.83 billion, as per Reserve Bank of India while imports were valued at \$10.28 billion.</p>	

<p><b>Free banking services out of GST net: Financial Ministry official</b></p>	<p><b>Indian Express</b> <a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/india/free-banking-services-out-of-gst-net-financial-ministry-official-5177741/">http://indianexpress.com/article/india/free-banking-services-out-of-gst-net-financial-ministry-official-5177741/</a></p>
<p>Amid banks getting service tax notice for non-payment of the levy on free services, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) had approached the revenue department seeking clarity on whether such services would attract GST.</p> <p>Free banking services like cheque book issuance and ATM withdrawals is likely to remain out of the ambit of the GST, a senior finance ministry official said.</p> <p>The Department of Financial Services had approached its revenue counterpart to clear the confusion over the levy of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on some of the free services offered by banks to their customers.</p> <p>“The revenue department is likely to tell the financial services department that GST will not be levied on free banking services,” an official told PTI.</p> <p>Amid banks getting service tax notice for non-payment of the levy on free services, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) had approached the revenue department seeking clarity on whether such services would attract GST.</p> <p>The DFS was of the opinion that services such as issuance of cheque books, account statements and ATM withdrawals are free up to a certain limit and not commercial activities which cannot be brought under the ambit of GST.</p> <p>The Indian Banks Association (IBA) on behalf of the management of banks too had made representation to the tax authorities.</p> <p>The service tax notice for period 2012-2017 was served as tax officials were of the view that banks were not offering ‘free services’ but actually charging customers by asking them to maintain a minimum account balance.</p> <p>Every bank offers a different slab of minimum balance to customers, based on which some free services are provided.</p> <p>GST was rolled out from July 1, 2017, prior to which central excise and service tax was levied on goods and services.</p>	

<p><b>Indian Government Partners with ImpactPPA to Power 50 Million Jobs</b></p>	<p><b>Globenewswire</b> <a href="https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2018/05/15/1502409/0/en/Indian-Government-Partners-with-ImpactPPA-to-Power-50-Million-Jobs.html">https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2018/05/15/1502409/0/en/Indian-Government-Partners-with-ImpactPPA-to-Power-50-Million-Jobs.html</a></p>
<p>NEW YORK -- Consensus 2018, May 15, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- ImpactPPA, today announced the company has been selected as the blockchain technology provider for a major economic development project in India. The government initiative, Bhartiya Harit Khadi Gramodaya Sansthan (BHKGS), which loosely translates to the “Indian Green Cotton Textile Village Development Organization,” aims to employ up to 50 million women from various states in India.</p>	

The project supported by the Honorable Minister Shri Giriraj Singh of the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) will install looms for textile work in women's homes starting in Khanwan Village of Bihar. ImpactPPA will manage the engagement of a strategic partner's technology to power the entire project using renewable energy, and then integrate and manage the supply chain with ImpactPPA's blockchain technology.

The program enables women to generate between 8,000 and 10,000 a month rupees from home, approximately 135 U.S. dollars. The MSME states that this will raise family income by 60 percent in some of the poorest villages of India where the minimum wage is less than 7000 rupees.

"It's an honor to work with the government of India to deploy out technology solutions," said Dan Bates, CEO of ImpactPPA. "A project of this scope clearly demonstrates that the use of renewable energy and blockchain technology has reached the mainstream. This partnership perfectly aligns with our fundamental mission to help improve quality of life with energy as the engine for social good and greater economic justice."

The first installations are expected to be completed in June with a ribbon-cutting ceremony inaugurating the project presided by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi at the first textile processing facility in Khanawa where ImpactPPA is providing 100KW to power the plant and 2KW systems to begin deploying the solar powered looms for production. The Indian government plans to employ several million women through its initiative with ImpactPPA by the end of the year.

"Having worked with the government of India on various solutions and projects for social impact, this alliance is a game-changer," said Aradhana Singh, CEO and Managing Director of Sarang Services Pvt. Ltd., the company serving as the local partner for this project in India "We are thrilled that ImpactPPA will be the provider of energy and blockchain technology and services for the project, bringing tangible economic growth opportunities while advocating women's empowerment."

ImpactPPA has created a model of deploying renewable energy systems in developing nations using blockchain technology. The ImpactPPA platform disrupts renewable energy financing to accelerate global clean energy production. Its tokenized model is designed to support communities in funding and deploying renewable energy solutions, untethering traditionally costly and inefficient structures for financing as well as managing the supply chain with blockchain technology.

#### About ImpactPPA

ImpactPPA is a blockchain platform built to disrupt renewable energy finance and accelerate global energy production. ImpactPPA's platform and tokenized model allows communities to rapidly fund and deploy clean energy solutions by untethering traditionally expensive and inefficient structures for energy financing. For more information, visit [www.impactppa.com](http://www.impactppa.com) or connect on Telegram, Twitter and Facebook.

**NAROL** — Situated on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, in the northwestern state of Gujarat, Narol is a very large industrial hub that manufactures readymade garments, especially jeans, shirts, pants and T-shirts for sale both in India and abroad. For the multinational companies operating there, it is money-making machine. And yet, very little of that cash-flow makes its way into the hands of impoverished workers, most of them women, and many of them migrants.

Narol attracts workers not just from the city and its rural hinterland, but from across India, especially from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. And just like their counterparts in Bangalore, as revealed in the study conducted by ICN in collaboration with the Garment Labour Union, workers in Narol earn meager salaries and work in precarious conditions, with little respite to the chronic poverty that their families face back home.

As a result of the structural adjustment programs launched in the 1990s by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, many major western clothing chains shifted their production to developing countries, such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and India primarily because of lower labor costs. During this period, Narol emerged as a major garments hub in India along with centers like Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Bangalore.

The workers are given impossible targets each day

The shift from mainly male workers to an increasing proportion of lower-paid female workers in the garment workforce has been one of the major ways in which industrialists have been able to keep their labor costs down. Data show that in the past five years, the number of women employees has increased by 15% in the textile industry, and in Gujarat, the rate is double. Around 35 million are employed in the Indian textile industry of which nearly 20 million are women (Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, 2016).

"If you know how to stitch cloth then you will easily find work in a garment factory, but surviving here is not easy, because they squeeze you like they squeeze the clothes," says Lakkuben, a garment worker.

The workers are given impossible targets each day — of stitching about 400-500 pieces, which is estimated to be three-to-four times what is humanly possible. As a result, they work at a frantic pace, often forgoing meal breaks or using the toilet. Still, they constantly fall behind the targets, giving management an excuse to penalize or fire them.

Overtime work in the industry tends to be compulsory both for regular and contract workers; if there is a large order with a tight deadline, everybody is forced to work overtime without any incentives or wages, coerced by threat of termination for refusal.

### **Suffocating conditions**

In their constant drive to increase profits, big multinational clothing chains have in recent years set up production houses in Narol. And as a result of increased competition, garment unit owners have been imposing even more

exploitative conditions on their workers.

Every factory in Narol has a boiler that is critical for the functioning of the machines. The boiler consists of a furnace in which coal or wood is burned to produce steam, which then powers all the machines.

"We are not allowed to leave the premises unescorted," says Sushilaben, an Adivasi worker employed in a boiler. "Visits from family are not encouraged and there have been numerous unregistered complaints of sexual harassment in the confines of these units."

Sushilaben's life is completely restricted to the factory's premises — 24 hours a day, seven days a week. She lives in a make-shift home right outside the boiler. "We are grateful to god for gifting us nights, otherwise how else could we get our much-needed rest," she says.

Her powerful words convey the kind of hard work she does day and night, carrying up to 40 kg of heavy coal or wood dust at a time to fill the boiler that runs all the machines. She has no safety training or equipment. These workers are forced to work at the boiler unit even during the intense Ahmedabad summers.

"I spent 12 years of my life working and living in this factory. And yet I'm still not on the payroll of this factory. Nor am I identified as a worker," says Kamilaben, also an Adivasi. She started work at the daily wage rate of 180 rupees — about \$2.70. A dozen years later, she earns 270 rupees (\$4) a day. She and her husband do the same work but her husband is paid more.

"Our shift keeps changing every week, and night shifts are scary because we feel extremely unsafe in the factory. We have to take our kids along while we go for work and we keep them in a cradle made of cloth, close to the chimney of the boiler where we work," says Kamilaben.

Her testimony speaks volumes about the kind of physical risk and health hazards these workers and their children face in these factories. In these congested and closed spaces, women are also vulnerable to sexual harassment and exploitation, all in the name of protecting their sole source of livelihood.

"The factory owners prefer to hire younger women, and a woman is never assessed based on her work," says Vanaben, who works as a helper in a garment stitching unit. Instead they're judged on "their looks and to what extent they don't speak up against the exploitation," she adds.

This is the grim state of affairs of women workers employed in Narol's garment industry. Multinationals flaunt the fruits of their labor in the world of glitz and glamour. But the women themselves are largely invisible, as is their hard work and contribution to the economy and society as a whole. While the industry reaps higher and higher profits, the workers, with the cheap labor they provide, disproportionately bearing the long-term costs in terms of their health, security, well-being and basic human dignity.

<b>Trade Ministry sets up committee to check fake textiles</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pluse</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.pulse.com.gh/news/business/trade-ministry-sets-up-committee-to-check-fake-textiles-id8379715.html">http://www.pulse.com.gh/news/business/trade-ministry-sets-up-committee-to-check-fake-textiles-id8379715.html</a></p>
<p>The Ministry of Trade and Industry has inaugurated a 12-member vetting committee to help facilitate the work of the Anti-Textile Piracy Taskforce.</p> <p>One key role of the committee is to determine whether all textiles confiscated by the task force are fake or not.</p> <p>In an interview with Accra-based Starr FM, the Deputy Trade Minister Carlos Ahenkora said that the inauguration of the vetting committee will enhance the fight against pirated textiles onto the market.</p> <p><i>“When the task force arrests the textile material, a committee needs to identify whether the materials are pirated, counterfeited or uncustomed.”</i></p> <p><i>“So what we did with this new task force that was formed... we give them a term of reference that included issuing or issuance of detention receipt when they seize anything,”</i> he added.</p> <p>He added that after a trader's cloths are seized, he or she is expected to appear before the vetting committee within fourteen days with the issuance detention receipt to determine whether the seizure was right or wrong.</p> <p><i>“We don’t want to do things to disenfranchise anybody because we are all Ghanaians and we all have a right to live, right to trade and a right to business.”</i></p> <p>The inauguration comes barely a month after the textile workers union hit the street to demonstrate against the influx of fake textiles unto the market.</p> <p>The textile industry which used to employ about 27.000 workers in the 70’s now employs less 3.000 as a result of the collapse of textile firms.</p>	

<b>APTMA demands Rs 8 per kWh electricity tariff for Punjab’s textile industry</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Daily Times</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://dailytimes.com.pk/240640/aptma-demands-rs-8-per-kwh-electricity-tariff-for-punjabs-textile-industry/">https://dailytimes.com.pk/240640/aptma-demands-rs-8-per-kwh-electricity-tariff-for-punjabs-textile-industry/</a></p>
<p>LAHORE: The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) Punjab Chairman Ali Pervaiz Malik has demanded Rs 8 per kWh electricity tariff for the textile industry in Punjab and uninterrupted electricity supply during Ramadan.</p> <p><i>“The government should also continue with the relief of Rs3 per unit under the Prime Minister’s Textile Industry package as Punjab industry is unable to operate on over 100% energy price disparity viz other provinces.”</i></p> <p>He was addressing a press conference after presiding the APTMA Punjab general body meeting by over 100 member mills from Lahore, Faisalabad and Multan attended Punjab office on Tuesday. Member mills raised industry concerns relating to the energy supply and affordability. They said the mills would have to close down one and a half shift</p>	

production, as labour would not be able to offer Sehri and Tarawi due to a total blackout in mills.

He said the Central Chairman APTMA Aamir Fayyaz and group leader APTMA will lead a delegation of 50 textile millers for meeting with Finance Minister in Islamabad wherein issue of energy supply and affordability would be presented.

“Textile units on independent feeders will be forced to lay off workers due to the suspension of one shift production in case the government carried with observing load shedding for industry in Ramazan,” he warned.

Ali Pervaiz concerned about the growing trade deficit , said that only way forward for the government is to enable exporting industry to generate exportable surplus and earn precious foreign exchange to overcome \$20 billion trade deficit for current year. The export growth achieved in the recent past would reverse if the potential to produce of the industry is disturbed due to 10 to 12 hours industry load shedding, he added.

He continued further and stated that per unit cost of the mills relying upon system gas and RLNG would shoot up to Rs14 per unit as well.

“Therefore, both the mills relying either on independent feeders or captive power plants would have to become further uncompetitive,” he apprehended.

He demanded an immediate announcement of Rs3 per kWh Prime Minister relief package to bring down electricity tariff from Rs10.5 to Rs8 per kWh committed in various meetings held with the Government. The system gas quota of 28 percent be enhanced to 50 percent so that high price of RLNG be reduced.

“The APTMA leadership will protect its members from all types of discrimination, as the industry cannot pass on cross subsidy, inefficiencies and the financial cost of sales tax and duty drawbacks to its buyers in the international market.” said Gohar Ejaz.

He has expressed the hope that the Finance Minister Miftah Ismail will understand the crisis like situation of textile industry in Punjab and he will honour his commitment of bailing it out at every cost.

Speaking on the occasion, group leader APTMA Gohar Ejaz said Rs3.60 per kwh Tariff surcharges was unjustly imposed on the industry and urged upon the Chief Justice Pakistan to notice and proposed one country one price of energy formula all across Pakistan.

According to him, the Punjab industry cannot survive with 10 hours load shedding and high price of energy.