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NEWS CLIPPINGS –15-06-2018

Textile exhibition at Coimbatore	The Hindu http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/textile-exhibition-at-coimbatore/article24168031.ece

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Thursday told the Assembly that an international textile exhibition would be held at Codissia in the coming years to give a fillip to the textile sector.

"The government will also set up dyeing units for combed yarn to ensure that the Tamil Nadu Textile Processing Mills get jobs throughout the year," the Chief Minister said while making a suo motu statement.

Cotton output to rise by 8.11% to 373 lakh bales in 2017-18 season: CITI	Times of India https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/cotton-output-to-rise-by-8-11-to-373-lakh-bales-in-2017-18-season-citi/articleshow/64590982.cms

Cotton production is estimated to grow by 8.11 per cent to 373 lakh bales in 2017-18 season ending September over the previous year, the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) said today.

The production is projected to expand on account of 13 per cent increase in cotton crop area to 122.59 lakh hectares from from 108.45 lakh hectares, it said.

"The estimated balance-sheet for 2017-18 shows production as 373 lakh bales (of 170kg each), imports at 15 lakh bales and exports at 70 lakh bales. Further consumption is estimated to be 316 lakh bales (including non mill consumption of 19 lakh bales) against 306 lakh bales in 2016-17," CITI Chairman Sanjay K Jain said.

High prices of cotton domestically and internationally would further force the consumption to either remain stagnant or slightly at the lower side, he opined. Hence, consumption figures should not exceed beyond 316 lakh bales, including the non-mill consumption of 19 lakh bales.

"Even the figure of 316 lakh bales is already higher than the estimate of cotton consumption of 309 lakh bales based upon the consumption of first seven months for the cotton season 2017-18 as reported by the Textile Commissioner," CITI said. "The consumption of last season 2016-17 was 306 lakh bales (including the non-mill consumption of 17.50 lakh bales)," it added.

The closing stock of cotton for 2017-18 would be around 49.81 lakh bales which is quite sufficient for the textile sector to smoothly run their units throughout the year, the body said. The Cotton Association of India (CAI) earlier this week increased its May estimate of the cotton crop production by 5 lakh bales to 365 lakh bales for 2017-18 season (October to September).

Increasing cotton prices could trip margins at spinning mills	Live Mint https://www.livemint.com/Money/be4VIZcsKVqHuohb9YAiSJ/Increasing-cotton-prices-could-trip-margins-at-spinning-mill.html

Expectations of higher minimum support price and increased demand from China are expected to impact cotton prices, already under pressure from reduced production

Low cotton prices over the last year had given a leg-up to profitability of Indo Count Industries, Nahar Spinning Mills and Vardhman Textiles that may feel the heat of rising cotton prices in the quarters ahead.

A surge in cotton prices spells bad news for spinning mills. Stable prices until January had lifted profit margins for mills in fiscal year 2018 (FY18), bringing relief as margins had been falling earlier.

The trouble started after the ministry of agriculture estimated that cotton crop sowing in the kharif season until May is 14% lower than a year ago. In line with this, rating agency Icra Ltd has forecast a 7-8% decline in cotton acreage to 11.4 million hectares in calendar year 2019 (CY19).

Even the seasonal estimate of 35 million bales for CY19 is lower than last year's output. Severe pest attacks on cotton crop last season may have led to losses that forced farmers to shift out of cotton this season.

Be that as it may, speculation on lower output has driven up domestic prices (Sankar-6 variety) by 15% since January. With elections round the bend, analysts expect higher minimum support price for cotton. Icra estimates a minimum floor price of Rs 115-120 per kg, way higher than about Rs 95 per kg about two years ago.

Meanwhile, the domestic uptrend is also supported by strong international prices due to a revival in demand from China. The country's cotton imports were low for two years as it wanted to exhaust its buffer stocks. Moreover, global cotton output too may fall short of consumption and take stocks to a seven-year low. That is another factor that can keep cotton prices up.

All these factors point to cotton prices ruling firm for a while. Even the Southern India Mills Association's view that speculation on lower output is keeping prices elevated has not softened prices yet.

If prices rule high in the months ahead, spinning mills' profitability will slip, albeit with a lag. However, analysts expect a mixed set of results in the second half of FY19. Larger integrated mills that are also financially stable, such as Indo Count Industries Ltd, Nahar Spinning Mills Ltd and Vardhman Textiles Ltd, possess sufficient low-cost cotton stock. Their margins are less likely to be weighed down by rising cotton prices. Also, if yarn prices move up then that will allow them to absorb the increase in cotton prices.

Cotton crop under scare of dust storm in Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab	**Economics Times** https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/cotton-crop-under-scare-of-dust-storm-in-haryana-rajasthan-punjab/articleshow/64589413.cms

Cotton plantations across Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab have come under the threat of stunted growth due to the dust storms that have raised pollution levels in the north-western region in the last fortnight. The dusty weather has left a thick layer of sand on month-old cotton plants, restricting their vegetative growth and likely the output. The effect of dust conditions is widely noticeable in districts of Jind, Sirsa, Fatehabad, Bhiwani and Hisar," Haryana's additional director of agriculture Suresh Gahlawat told ET. The winds have blown sand from Rajasthan and smeared cotton plants in the districts that produce 80% of the fibre crop in the state, he said.

Apart from the dust, the hazy atmosphere due to suspended dust particles has also restricted the availability of sunlight for plants at this crucial period of growth, experts said. The impact of the weather is more in Haryana and Rajasthan where the veil of sand has camouflaged the standing cotton plantations.

"It could reduce output by 7-10% as the accumulated sand and dust on leaves affect the process of photosynthesis and nutrient suction ability of cotton plants," Gahlawat said In Rajasthan, the impact is more in Ganganagar and Hanumangarh districts. "Cotton sowing was late due to a delay in (getting) canal water this season and now dry and dusty weather is affecting the crop," said Suresh Kumar, a cotton trader based in Hanumangarh

Farmers have sown 20% less cotton this year in Punjab and Haryana. The sowing is also delayed due to the release of less canal water in the three states. While experts are recommending slight spray of water on the plantsto get rid of the dust on them, the availability of water is a concern in non-irrigated areas. "Farmers are now awaiting rains to settle down the dust," said Guni Ram, a cotton grower based in Sirsa. A dry spell in June will worsen the hazy conditions for cotton crop, experts said. Farmers have dithered away from sowing cotton in the North due to less canal water, less than expected price of remuneration and rising losses due to diseases.

SIHMA seeks ban on cotton export till harvest season commences	**The Hindu** http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/sihma-seeks-ban-on-cotton-export-till-harvest-season-commences/article24168187.ece

The South India Hosiery Manufacturers Association (SIHMA) has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stop any further export of cotton till the next cotton season begins in October.

SIHMA president A. C. Eswaran pointed out that huge fluctuation in domestic cotton prices in the recent months had resulted in the increase of cotton yarn prices.

Harvested

cotton crop

"To control the cotton prices, the only solution is to stop any further exports of cotton and make the remaining quantity of harvested cotton crop available to the domestic textile sector.

Stock taking

“We have made the appeal as the cotton exports have been continuing with the help of Cotton Corporation of India without taking stock of the needs within the country”, he said.

Raw materials

With cotton being the main raw material for the knitwear manufacturers, the escalation in its prices could affect the profit margins”, added Mr. Eswaran.

TEA seeks FTAs with EU, US to counter Chinese threat in export	Money Control https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/tea-seeks-ftas-with-eu-us-to-counter-chinese-threat-in-export-2591301.html

To face the onslaught of the Chinese, it was important for India to enter into FTA with EU, US, the UK and Russia, Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Australia and Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Canada and other promising countries

Tirupur Exporters' Association (TEA) today stressed the need to enter into Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with European Union, USA, the UK and Russia, to face the Chinese threat in export markets.

In a memorandum submitted to Union Textile minister, Smriti Irani in New Delhi, the association said though garment exports from China had been declining in a gradual manner since 2013, Chinese were 'silently' entering countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and of late Myanmar, by setting up manufacturing bases.

China, by using advantages available to these countries with predominant EU and US markets, increased export and circumvented Indian industry's growth prospects in the global market, which was a real threat to the industry here, TEA president Raja M Shanmugham said.

"To face the onslaught of the Chinese, it was important for India to enter into FTA with EU, US, the UK and Russia, Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Australia and Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Canada and other promising countries," he said.

On the Tirupur cluster, Shanmugham said TEA had set a target for knitwear business, including exports and domestic, to touch Rs one lakh crore by 2020.

The target was fixed by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which also subscribed to the minister's (Smriti Irani) vision of doubling the textile industry turnover, he added.

In the last financial year 2017-18, Tirupur knitwear business reached Rs 42,000 crore, of which the contribution of exports and domestic business were Rs 24,000 crore and Rs 18,000 crore respectively, Shanmugham said.

Exports had declined from Rs 26,000 crore to Rs 24,000 crore, about 7.7 percent, he said.

This was because of unforeseen situations faced by industry, the TEA president said adding the bottomline was hit further due to implementation of GST and reduction of duty drawback by 5 percent and ROSL by two percent.

WPI inflation at 14-month-high of 4.43% in May on rising fuel, vegetable prices	The Hindu http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/inflation-rises-to-14-month-high-of-443-pc-in-may-on-costlier-fuel-vegetables/article24160728.ece

The previous high was in March 2017, when the WPI inflation stood at 5.11 per cent.

Inflation based on wholesale prices shot up to a 14-month high of 4.43 per cent in May on increasing prices of petrol and diesel as well as vegetables.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation stood at 3.18 per cent in April and 2.26 per cent in May last year.

According to government data released on Thursday, inflation in food articles was at 1.60 per cent in May 2018, against 0.87 per cent in the preceding month.

Inflation in vegetables climbed to 2.51 per cent in May, while in the previous month it was (-)0.89 per cent.

Inflation in 'fuel and power' basket rose sharply to 11.22 per cent in May from 7.85 per cent in April as prices of domestic fuel increased in line with rising global crude oil rates.

Potato inflation was at a peak of 81.93 per cent, against 67.94 per cent in April.

Price rise in fruits was in double digits at 15.40 per cent, while pulses saw a deflation of 21.13 per cent.

The WPI inflation for March was revised upwards to 2.74 per cent from the provisional estimate of 2.47 per cent.

May inflation at 4.43 per cent was a 14-month peak. The previous high was in March 2017, when the WPI inflation stood at 5.11 per cent.

In its second monetary policy review for the fiscal, the Reserve Bank earlier this month hiked interest rate by 0.25 per cent — the first hike in more than four years — due to growing concerns about inflation stoked by rising global crude oil prices as well as domestic price increases.

The price of Indian basket of crude surged from $66 a barrel in April to around $74 currently.

Data released earlier this week showed retail inflation jumping to a 4-month high of 4.87 per cent in May on costlier food items such as fruits, vegetables and fuel. RBI mainly takes into account retail inflation data while formulating monetary policy.

Mega textile park project at Pinjrat still in planning stage	Times of India https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/surat/mega-textile-park-project-at-pinjrat-still-in-planning-stage/articleshow/64593202.cms

Surat: While the Diamond City is facing air and water pollution caused by textile dyeing and printing mills located within the city limits, the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) has been for the last two years trying to convince the state government to allot 70 lakh square meter of land at Pinjrat in Olpad taluka in Surat district for a 'mega textile park'.

The presence of polluting textile mills within the city limits came into spotlight following the collapse of a portion and fire at Shalu dyeing mills and also Maruti mills at Pandesara GIDC on June 9, which resulted in the death of two workers and injuries to 17 others. The accidents at the two mills gave a chance to SGCCI to renew its demand for the 'mega textile park'.

The aim behind the mega textile park is to shift the existing textile mills from the city limits to Pinjrat in order to solve the issue of air and water pollution. The mega textile park will have a common boiler system (discouraging use of chimneys), wind and solar power generation, common drainage, high capacity CETP plant, tertiary treatment for water supply to units etc.

A team from the state government's industries department had conducted a site visit along with officials from other departments and district administration last year, but nothing came out of it. IL&FS, a consulting company, was hired for preparing a presentation on the mega textile park. The presentation was submitted to the chief secretary to Gujarat Government last year and even a special purpose vehicle (SPV)-Textile Processing Park Association (TPPA)- was also formed. However, there has been no response from the government so far. The SGCCI's mega textile park is a Rs1,500 crore project which will accommodate over 100 textile mills, 40 water jet weaving units, 225 garment units and textile ancillary units. The mega textile park will house giant textile processing units, each having average capacity of manufacturing over three lakh metres of fabric per day.

Former president of SGCCI, BS Agarwal told TOI, "Textile mills in the city were set up when its population was less than 15 lakh four decades ago. At present, the city has over 60 lakh population and there is a need for the mills to shift to the outskirts. The textile mega park has been envisaged with the aim to provide a better life to the residents."

Agarwal said National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, which was hired for CRZ survey at Pinjrat, found that about 32 lakh square meter land was out of the CRZ regulation. He said the processing units in Surat are located in Pandesara, Kadodara, Palsana and Sachin industrial estates, each having one CETP plant. At present, all CETPs are working to its fullest capacity and they are not allowed to expand, because they do not have further capacity for disposal of effluent. Thus, these processing units need to be shifted to the mega textile parks.

Most textile mill owners don't want to shift

Surat: The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) advocates the shifting of the polluting textile mills from the city limits to Pinjarat, but most of the textile mill owners are averse to the idea.

The market price of the land where these textile mills are located has skyrocketed in the last decade. However, with slump in realty market, the mill owners are not getting the market price for their properties.

A mill owner said, “We certainly do not want to create pollution in the residential area, but until we get market price for our properties, we are not interested in shifting. Only Jantri rates are not enough as they are on a lower side than the rates prevailing in the market.”

South Gujarat Textile Processors’ Association (SGTPA) president Jitu Vakharia told TOI, “It is good that a plan is afoot for the mega textile park at Pinjrat. But the thing is that the textile sector per se is passing through a tough phase. The situation is worse for textile mills, which are operating at break even profit margins. The problem with Pandesara GIDC is that the land cannot be converted as it comes under GIDC purview. There are 115 textile mills in Pandesara alone. The state government should come out with a package for the mill owners so that they can get subsidy on investments in new areas.”

The mega textile park at Pinjrat has the potential to provide a pollution-free environment to residents of the Diamond City. However, everything rests on the state government which has to allot land for the project at Pinjarat. The mill owners should be made to see reason why they need to shift to another place. It is in everybody's interest to make this project work.

A Struggle for Minimum Wage	**News Click** https://newsclick.in/struggle-minimum-wage

The insufficient wages plague one of the largest informal sectors in the state of Karnataka.

Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy has called a meeting on June 18, 2018, with the garments and textile workers in the state, along with the managements of industries in the sector. The workers are fighting for the increase in the minimum wages. Newsclick spoke to Pratibha of Garment and Textile Workers Union (GATWU) about the scheduled meeting. According to her, the workers are agitated and are angry, as, it is the duty of the government to decide the minimum wage, while government after government has ignored the demand for the increase in their minimum wages.

Pratibha, however, pointed out that this is the first time in the last forty years when a chief minister is directly involved in these negotiations. Speaking about the call for the meeting by the CM, she said, the only question the Union has for the government is: “Why are we, the garment and textile workers, ignored?”

THE ONGOING STRUGGLE AND DEMANDS

On February 22, 2018, the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in the state had issued a draft notification that promised an increase in wages from Rs 8,500 per month to Rs 12,250 per month. The managements of the garment industries in the state met with the government to discuss this draft notification. They claimed that they would not be able to pay that high an amount. Without giving its ear to the workers, the government retracted the draft notification on March 24, 2018. The GATWU had decided to protest against this move of the government on April 17,

2018. Since the chosen date for the protest was too close to the state assembly elections and the moral code of conduct, the Union was not given the permission to go ahead with the protest.

"Since it did not work out then, the union had decided to mobilise and protest on May 30, 2018. Due to the pending elections, they were denied permission again. The protest was supposed to be today, i.e. on June 14, 2018. The call for protest was given by the workers and the unions of four industries. They also had submitted a letter to the CM for a dialogue with him about the minimum wages. They were called for a meeting with the CM on June 12, 2018 and as mentioned earlier, it is decided that the Union representatives will be meeting the management on June 18, 2018," informed Pratibha.

She said, "The chief minister, along with the Labour Minister Venkataramanappa, Labour Secretary- Amlan Adiya Biswas, Labour Commissioner Ms.Chaitra, met the Union leaders from Maddur, Srirangapatna, Ramanagara and Bengaluru. The representatives of the GATWU were accompanied by Matiri from AICCTU and Satyanand Mukund from AITUC.''

The Union and the workers have put forward three demands in front of the CM. She explained, "Firstly, we brought to his notice the retraction of the final notification of the revised minimum wages issued to the workers of textile industry, spinning industry and printing and dyeing industry. We demand that he looks into the question of minimum wages that we have been fighting for. Secondly, during the strikes against the revision of Provident Funds by the Centre in 2016, the police had slapped cases against many workers. We demand that the government retract these cases. Thirdly, according to the law, Consumer Price Index points need to be calculated every six months and Dearness Allowance has to be released. In Delhi, for example, the DA is raised twice a year. In Karnataka, however, it is done only once a year. We demand that it should be done twice a year like elsewhere it is in the country."

Along with presenting these three demands, the representatives of the GATWU also mentioned the role of Shahi exports, Raymonds and Arvind Ltd in the retraction of the draft notification issued by the former government. Pratibha also said that there are about 150 employers in the state currently and all of them have turned to the powerful Shahi Exports to file an official statement against the draft notification that had increased the minimum wages.

It is this backdrop against which the CM has called a meeting with the employers and the workers. "However, the involvement of the employers makes no sense. Because once the minimum wage has been fixed, it is the duty of the government to ensure that the workers get the wage. Why are the employers being brought into the picture along with the unions? Actually, there is no need for all of this. All that the government has to do is, to stick with its mandates," asserted Pratibha.

EMPLOYERS-GOVERNMENT LOBBY

The insufficient wages plague one of the largest informal sectors in the state of Karnataka. The workers of this industry have been fighting for minimum wage and improvement in their working conditions. According to a government surveytwo years ago, there were 3.75 lakh workers and 857 factories. Now, there are more than 1,000 factories and 4-4.5 lakh workers working with the industry. Eighty per cent of the workers in the state are women, and 45 per cent of them are from the women-headed households.

Governments, since 1979, have turned a blind eye to the garment industry. Karnataka has 76 industries with scheduled employments and none of their managements are united. They are scattered. But, the managements of the garment industry are all united. This makes them powerful players. They lobby with both the Central and the state governments. As Pratibha observes, this is also reflected in the attempt of the CM to have a dialogue with the employers to decide and increase the minimum wages of the workers.

Pratibha added, “We are fighting for the minimum wages. The current figures promised are the result of the 5threvision of the minimum wages in last 40 years. We faced the same issue in the last four revisions too. The managements interfered in the government’s decision and ensured that the wages were not increased. This is the pattern. There will be notification issued and within a month or so, with no appropriate reason, the notifications are retracted. If they do not pay minimum wages for a month the profit that these industries make is anywhere around Rs 160 crores. This obviously is in the interest of the managements – to make profits. What does this pattern tell? It is the management and government lobby.”

Since the workers are united now, she said, this lobby cannot stand for a long time and the GATWU is hopeful that the meeting will yield results in interest of the workers; however, if this does not happen, she said, “We will get back to fight, struggle and protesting.”

ATS Canada to unveil fashion forward clothing	**Fibre 2 Fashion** http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/ats-canada-to-unveil-fashion-forward-clothing-242755-newsdetails.htm

The breakthrough technologies in the apparel and textile industry, with many innovations will be unveiled at the Apparel Textile Sourcing (ATS) Canada from August 20. Among the latest advances to be showcased is a line of futuristic clothing – featuring seamlessly-integrated technology – that is designed to both diagnose and treat health conditions.

Some of these innovations to be displayed at the three-day exhibition include stylish undergarments that act as an ECG monitor 24-7, alerting users to potential heart rhythm issues, as well as apparel that provides users with remote physiotherapy, meaning patients can receive professional rehabilitation therapy – including heat, electric stimulation and compression treatment – remotely from the comfort of their home.

The new offerings will be among a wide range of features at ATSC, including 600 local and international exhibits, three full days of seminars, panels and sessions by industry, government and fashion leaders, business matchmaking services, and fashion runway events. The show will provide the thousands of expected attendees with unprecedented networking and business opportunities with international suppliers on Canadian turf.

“ATSC will display the latest trends and unique offerings in apparel and textile from more than 20 countries, including Canada, China, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the U.S., the U.K., Turkey, Switzerland, Spain, Nepal and, for the first time, the Ukraine,” said Jason Prescott, CEO of JP Communications, ATSC producer.

The show will double in size from 2017 to include additional categories such as accessories, giftware, home electronics, footwear, luggage and housewares and general merchandise as part of the popular China Brand Show, coming to Canada for the first time as part of the event. Ten premier brands from China will also unveil their trending, high-quality collections as they look to collaborate with reputable Canadian retailers.

ATSC will follow the Toronto show with its first business matchmaking event in Montreal on August 24. For the first time, the Montreal community will have the opportunity to network and connect with top apparel and textile manufacturers from across the globe eager to do business with the local industry.

ATSC is supported by many international governments and associations, headed by the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textile and Apparel and the Bangladesh High Commission on behalf of the Export Promotion Bureau and the Bangladesh Garment and Manufacturers Export Association.

Turkey wants to tighten up China textile imports: Firms	**Hurriyet Daily news** http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-wants-to-tighten-up-china-textile-imports-firms-133257

Turkey wants to impose new requirements on textile firms importing material from China, alarming leaders of one of the country's biggest export industries, three clothing company executives told Reuters.

They said the plans were discussed at a meeting in Ankara on June 11 between economy ministry officials and representatives of textile companies, who had requested the meeting to ask that the planned measures be delayed or revised.

An economy ministry official confirmed the meeting at the ministry, without giving details.

"We expressed support for production imports from China, but on the condition of bringing value added to Turkey," the official said.

Turkey's textile sector is a pillar of its economy. Ready-to-wear clothing accounted for about 18 percent of Turkey's $157 billion exports last year.

Cüneyt Yavuz, chief executive officer of jeans retailer Mavi, said he believed the government plan was aimed partly at tackling Turkey's widening current account deficit, which reached $47.1 billion last year.

Turkey imported a quarter of its $10.1 billion textile imports from China in 2017, more than half of which are cotton fabrics and intermediary goods.

"The ministry had a plan to increase the documentation of textile imports from China," Yavuz told Reuters.

"This plan was only regarding the textile sector... and it would go into effect in mid-July."

He said business leaders at the meeting told the ministry that material imported from Chinawas sold on to other countries such as Russia and the United States, benefiting Turkey.

“I was told that there would be either a postponing or at least a revision in the ministry’s plans” which were originally intended to go into effect in mid-July, Yavuz said.

Another senior textile sector executive who attended the June 11 meeting said the new measures included obtaining documents about the Chinese companies they are buying from, which will add costs and cause delays in trade.

“The ministry undersecretary told us that there is a huge trade deficit with China, where our imports are about 10 times the size of exports,” the executive told Reuters.

“They want some balance. But they understood our concerns and promised to take another look at the proposed measures.”

The chief executive of another major Turkish textile company, confirmed that the ministry had been asking for additional documents for textile imports from July, but said the ministry had been asked to postpone the move until January.

“We had been informed that we would need a lot of extra documents for imports from China, so we demanded this meeting,” said the CEO, whose company has almost 150 stores in Turkey, and exports to seven other countries.

“The ministry didn’t ask us to stop producing in China. It was a fruitful meeting. We asked them to postpone the plan until at least January 2019, which the ministry will evaluate.”

Textile industry will adopt less hazardous materials, report says	**Chemical Watch** https://chemicalwatch.com/67688/textile-industry-will-adopt-less-hazardous-materials-report-says

In the next ten years, the textile and apparel industry will adopt new materials that deliver unprecedented performance and eliminate harmful chemicals from products and manufacturing processes, according to a venture capital fund report.

The report *Safer Chemistry Innovation in the Textile and Apparel Industry*, says it aims to "stimulate conversations and catalyse innovation that brings safer and more sustainable textiles and apparel to market."

It was released last week by venture capital fund Safer Made, which invests in safer products and technologies, with support from the global initiative, Fashion for Good.

"With this report we aim to enable productive conversations between both sector ‘insiders’ —brands, retailers, mills, and chemicals and equipment suppliers — and those outside the sector, such as innovators, investors, governments and the advocacy and philanthropic community leading to partnerships and investment decisions," said Martin Mulvihill, partner at Safer Made.

Materials innovation

"The solutions to safer chemistry challenges are quite often new materials and processes that deliver new performance characteristics," the report says.

It evaluates the role various harmful chemicals have in the production of textiles and apparel and identifies five key innovation areas.

Key innovation areas:

new materials - synthetic fibers, cellulosic fibers, leather alternatives;

new safer chemistries – safer finishing chemistries, bio-based dyes;

waterless processing – waterless dyeing processes, waterless finishing processes;

fiber recycling – cotton, polyester, blends, nylon; and

supply chain information management – chemical management information systems, traceability systems.

Within each innovation area, the report highlights work by both startups and established suppliers to bring safer chemistry and materials to market. It showcases the work of more than a hundred young innovative companies.

"The industry is hungry for new materials with new performance characteristics, and there are several companies aiming to bring them to market," the report says.

This need for materials innovation "provides the opportunity to adopt new materials that perform better and are safer, and to design safer manufacturing processes," it continues.

Drivers to change

It identifies three major factors driving the adoption of safer chemistry in the textile and apparel sector:

calls for transparency from consumers, retailers and the advocacy community;

increasing public awareness of the environmental pollution associated with the manufacturing of textiles apparel products; and textile and apparel brands and retailers adopting the circular economy language, concepts and frameworks. The report concludes that the fashion industry can emerge as a circular and regenerative sector of the economy.

Katrin Ley, managing director of Fashion for Good said: "An open innovation culture is crucial, and Safer Made’s report provides different stakeholders with valuable information to support them in the transition to only good fashion."