



The initiatives taken by Chairman, AEPC during the Lock Down period, for the industry related matters.

During the lock-down period the following correspondences were made by Chairman AEPC with the following;

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Cabinet Secretary , Principle Secretary to PM, Advisor to PM , Hon'ble Finance Minister, Finance Secretary, Hon'ble Commerce Minister, Secretary-Commerce, DGFT, Hon'ble Textile Minister, Secretary –Textiles, Hon'ble Union Labour Minister and Secretary (Labour). Chief Labour Commissioner, PF Commissioner, Director General of Employment, Minister of MSME and Secretary MSME, Hon'ble Union Civil Aviation Minister and Secretary – Civil Aviation etc.,

Correspondences were also made with 13 State Chief Ministers, Union Territory Administrator and Chief Secretary of 13 States. In addition 13state Director General of Police were also approached for free movement of Cargo.

On 25th March, 2020 Smt.Smirti Zubin Irani, Hon'ble Union Textile Minister extended her support to our Apparel Export Industry by giving an Video bite (appeal to overseas buyers) requesting overseas buyers/ big brands/Stores that not to cancel the orders placed with our Indian Exporters and further requested them for "Commerce with Compassion".

Chairman also attended the Video Conferences chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Textiles and Hon'ble Minister of Commerce on several occasion during this lock-down period (3 VC by Min.of Commerce and 3 Video Conferences by Ministry of Textiles).

HMOT's Video appeal along with Chairman's personal request have been forwarded to more than 100 overseas buyers of big brands/stores, boutiques and International Federations/Associations between 25th March 2020 to 7th April 2020 with a request to NOT to Cancel the orders placed with our Indian Exporters. Chairman's office received positive responses from some of the big brands namely Mango, H&M & C and A and also from International Textile Associations/Bodies responded with the message that they will disseminate the HMOT Videos/Chairman's appeal amongst their members by posting it on their official as well as personal website. They are; Better Buying- Newark-USA, EURATEX- Brussels, International Apparel Federation- Netherland, Sustainable Apparel, Fair Wear Foundations-Netherland and Australian Fashion Council etc., Chairman's office also mailed the appeal of HMOT to Danish Ministry of Foreign

Affairs(received acknowledgement), ILO, European Commission and Secretary General-United Nation with a request to kindly advise their partner/associated Countries Trade Bodies/Associations to consider the request of ours, that is, NOT to cancel the orders placed with our Indian Buyers. Chairman personally conveyed his thanks to Hon'ble Minister for her kind gesture of giving the Video bite.

While dealing with International Buying Houses, Buyers, Big Stores & Boutiques during this COVID -19 time, Chairman AEPC frequently interacted with Chairman and President of the Textile Associations of our neighboring Countries and established a good working relations, particularly with Ms.Rubana Hug, President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGME) and Mr.Rehan Lakhany, Chairman of The Sri Lanka Apparel Exporter's Association for the unified approach to handle the buyers' issues.

Chairman also initiated and advised the office to stakeholder consultation with leading Brands and Buying-Houses sourcing from India as also multi-stakeholder organisations like Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) over Video-Conferencing to share challenges and concerns of Indian Apparel exporters due to Covid-19, as also to brainstorm on proposed strategies to bring back the sector to normalcy and discuss Business Continuity Plan. Its first meeting held on 13.4.2020 thru' Video Conference.

Senior representatives of Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI), brands and buying houses like PVH, Ralph Lauren Asia Pacific, VF, Marks and Spencer, Triburg, Very group and Buying Agents Association joined the discussions.

In continuation to follow up, the 2nd Video Conference with ETI and other stakeholders held on 22nd April 2020. During the meeting, Chairman and all other stakeholders have agreed to develop a framework on priorities and a call for action for rebuilding the industry within possible time frame.

On the same day i.e on 22.4.20, after the Video Conference, Chairman participated in the ILO web-seminar too and had taken up various issues related to workers welfare, banking facilitation & framing of feasible manual for manufacturing sector and also training technical people for restarting industry etc.,

In addition office of SG/ASG also mailed to various buyers/buying houses and big brands etc. and got the good responses from most of the buyers with assurance to honour the placed orders.

The details of the Chairman's Communication in chronological order are given below:

<u>S.NO.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Copied to</u>
01.	21.3.20	<i>Letter addressed to Shri.Hardeep Singh Puri, Civil Aviation Minister with a request to intervene for facilitating Apparel Shipments, Allow Air India passenger Aircraft for carrying Cargo and Reduction of Tariffs.</i>	<i>Letter copied to Secretaries of Civil, Textile Commerce, Logistics and Eco.Advisor of Civil Aviation.</i>

02.	23.3.20	Letter addressed to Mr.Nitin Gadkari, Minister MSME & Road Transport, requesting for allowing movement of all the raw materials, movement of apparels from Factory to ICDs, Ports freely in all the states along with permission to interstate move of cargo. Requested him to advised the 13 states which have the strong presence of Apparel Exports industry.	Copied to Logistics Secretary
03.	23.3.20	Letter addressed to Mr.Nitin Gadkari, Minister MSME with a request to advise the State Chief Ministers to allow the movement of Apparel Exports Industry related goods, raw material between the factory, ICDs, and Ports in their states. Also requested him to help us on the issues of Working Capital Constrains, Insurance thr'u ECGC, Easing of Norms for meeting Export Obligations and easing of Commitments towards workers. Etc.	
04.	23.3.20	Letter addressed to Mr.Piyush Goyal, Commerce Minister with a request to advise the Chief Minister of all states for free movement of Cargo between the Factory, ICDs and Ports etc., Also requested him to advise the Civil Aviation authority for seamless flow of goods, Exclusive Cargo Craft by using the grounded passenger craft and also requested him to take up the issue with our Indian Embassy to apprise the Foreign Buyers in their country about the status of our crisis and advise them not to cancel the orders placed with Indian Buyers.	Letter Copied to Secretary, Commerce.
05.	23.3.20	Letter addressed to 12 State Chief Minister and one Union Territory asking them to allow the free movement of Apparel Cargo in their states.	
06.	23.3.20	Letter written to Addl.Chief Secretary, Haryana and DM Gurugram requesting them to allow both Gurugram and Faridabad based Apparel Export Industry to operate during the Lock Down period	

		<i>so that the International Export Commitments be met.</i>	
07.	23.3.20	<i>Letter to Smt.Smriti Zubin Irani, HMOT with a request to with a request to advise the Chief Minister of all states for free movement of Cargo between the Factory, ICDs and Ports etc., Also requested him to advise the Civil Aviation authority for seamless flow of goods, Exclusive Cargo Craft by using the grounded passenger craft and also requested him to take up the issue with our Indian Embassy to apprise the Foreign Buyers in their country about the status of our crisis and advise them not to cancel the orders placed with Indian Buyers.</i>	<i>Letter copied to Shri.Ravi Capoor, IAS Secretary- Textiles.</i>
08.	25.3.20	<i>Letter to Chief Secretaries of 13 states including one UT with a request to allow Apparel Export Cargo freely between Factories, ICDs and Ports in their states.</i>	
09.	25.3.20	<i>Letter to Minister of Finance, Commerce, Textiles & Textile Secretary. While thanking the Govt. request has been made to reimburse the ROSCTL benefits as Direct Cash Transfer as in the case of erstwhile ROSL and DBK. Also requested for extension of other export benefits under the FTP. Letter written to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on the "Stimulus Package " and "amnesty scheme" to be introduced in the FTP in view of impending crisis anticipated.</i>	<i>Copied to Secretary Textiles</i>
10.	26.3.20	<i>Letter addressed to Shri.Santosh Kr.Gangwar, Labour Minister with a request to support the Apparel Export Industry by way of "contributing wages/salaries for three weeks to the workers & allow the industry to defer the payment of PF/ESI and electricity charges by a period of 3 months.</i>	<i>Letter copied to Hon'ble Finance Minister and Hon'ble Textile Minister.</i>
11.	26.3.20	<i>Letter to Shri.Shaktikanta DAS, RBI Governor with a request to Packing Credit, EMI Foregone, Term Loans EMS postponement, P &L Interest, Interest and Instalment defaults period for NPAs should be 6 months instead of 3 months, Interest Equalization, Collateral Free Lending</i>	

		upto 2.cr Enhancing of Forward contract limits and various other issues related to Apparel Exports.	
12.	27.3.20	Letter to Commerce Minister with a request to Extension of FTP, Easing out of Reimbursement Scheme like ROSCTL, Reintroduction of MEIS scheme w.e.f 7.3.20, Extending the validity of various schemes for a further period of 12 months. Fiscal and Monetary measures and Easing out labour compliances.	Copied to Commerce Secretary DGFT and Jt.Secretary
13.	27.3.20	Letter to RBI Governor on Packing Credit, Extn.of Companies (declared as NPA) account for a min.of 1 yrs. Extn.of Interest and Instalment defaults period, Postponement of Term Loan EMIs by one year. Interest Equalisation enhancement and extension for further 2 years upto 31.3.2022 and many other Banking Issues.	
14.	28.3.20	Letter to Secretary Textiles with a request to recommend the following; EPC extension/enhancement of validity of present EPC and IC by 6 months. A one time relaxation by enhancing 255 of 2019-20 EPC's on self declaration	Copied to Shri.RK Barthwal, Member Customs CBIC.
15.	30.3.20	Letter to Shri.Ajit Kumar, Chairman CBIC conveying about Shipping Bill details not appearing in RBI Portal and request him to advise the Customs to update all pending S/bill in the Portal so that refund pendencies are cleared at the earliest to improve the liquidity position of the exporters.	
16.	31.3.20	Letter to Commerce Minister after attending the VC on 31.3.20. Chairman conveyed the following issues during the VC and after submitted it through letter also, the points are , Payment of Labour wages, PF & ESI, permission to run the Apparel Export Unit with min.workforce of 25-50 staff to run the sample division. Resumption of Courier Services and other Banking Issues like Packing Credit, Extension of Bill Realisation for another 6 months, forward contract extn. And	Letter copied to Secretary Commerce, DGFT, Jt.Secretary Commerce

		<i>sanctioning of 25% Working Capital without collateral.</i>	
17.	31.3.20	<i>Letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India with a request to Apparel Export Industry specific Relief package due to impact of COVID -19. Alongwith Letter Heat Map issued by MOODY and Statement on Benefits given by Bangladesh and Thailand govt to their Apparel Exports Industry for ref.</i>	<i>Letter Copied to Finance, Commerce, Textiles, MSME and Labour Ministers and their respective Secretaries with the request to use their good offices to apprise the PMO suitably.</i>
18.	1.4.20	<i>Letter to Sh.Prem Kr.Kataria, IAS Spl.Secretary Textiles on Validity extension of EPCs and ICs expiring on 31.3.20 as ther are not utilized during the lockdown period. The extension request is for 6 months till 30.9.20. Earlier letter addressed Secretary Textiles and Member Customs is attached.</i>	
19.	2.4.20	<i>Letter to Shri.Rajiv Gauba, Cabinet Secretary with a request to recommend the issues placed before the Hon'ble PM on Labour Wages, PF, ESI Packing Credit, Extn.of Export Bill realization period , increase in working capital by 255 without any additional collateral, no penalty on forward covers and deferment of payment of GST dues for a period of 3 months. PM letter attached for his ref.</i>	
20.	2.4.20	<i>Letter to RBI Governor to ease the cash flow situation, the following points placed before ; packing credit period for existing loans may be extended by 6 months, increase in working capital by 25% without any additional collateral, no penalty on forward covers etc.,</i>	
21.	2.4.20	<i>Letter to Shri.Rajiv gauba, Cab.Secy on Wags & Salaries, Fiscal and Monetary Measures, Easing out reimbursement schemes like ROSCTL and MEIS Scheme etc.,</i>	
22.	3.4.20	<i>Letter to 13 state and 1 UT DIG requesting them to allow the Cargo of Apparel Export Industry</i>	

		<i>freely within their state and Letter issued by TN DIG is attached for their ref.</i>	
23.	4.4.20	<i>Letter to Shri.Hardeep Singh Puri, Civil Aviation Minister requesting him for 100% demurrage waiver on Import Cargo during 1.3.20-30.4.20 and 100% demurrage waiver on all Export Shipments. Allowing Air India passenger flight to carry the Apparel Export Cargo etc.,</i>	<i>Letter copied alongwith DO Letter to Prin.Secy to PM, Cab.Secy and Home Secretary. Civil Aviation Minister letter also copied to Secretaries CA, Com, Textile and Logistics.</i>
24.	4.4.20	<i>Letter to Secretary Homes on partial opening of Apparel Export Industry and resumption of Courier Services.</i>	
25.	4.2.20	<i>Letter to Chairman CBIC on IGST Pendency</i>	
26.	6.4.20	<i>Letter to CM Tamil Nadu requesting him to take up the issues of our Apparel Textile Industry during the Video Conference meeting of him with Hon'ble Prime minister. Issues already raised with PM has been referred to CM for his ref. during the VC.</i>	<i>Letter copied to PS to CM, Chief Secretary, State Industry Minister and his Department Secretary.</i>
27.	6.4.20	<i>Letter to Secretary Textiles on Release of Pending TUFs amounts/claims alongwith pending list.</i>	<i>Letter copied to Spl.Secretary (Tex) and Textile Commissioner</i>
28.	6.4.20	<i>Letter to Secretary Textiles on Manufacturing PPE Kits by AEPC Members. 7 Prominent Manufactures list shared with MOT.</i>	<i>Letter copied to Spl.secy, Jt.Secretary and Dy.Secretary of MOT</i>
29.	7.4.20	<i>Letter to Smt.Smriti Zubin Irani ji requesting her to strongly recommend to the Fin.Ministry to advise all the banks to extend grant on Interest free loan to disburse salaries and wages of workers for at least 3 months. Relief package given by various Countries to its Textile Industry is annexed.</i>	

30.	7.4.20	Letter to Secretary Textiles on various issues discussed during the VC held on 7.4.20 and the same has been written to him. Payment of wages, ESI, PF, No Penalty on Forward Cover, Pending ROSL, 75% of TUFF may be released on Undertaking and partial opening of Apparel Export Industry. Notification issued by Bangladesh Govt on Loan against wages is attached for ref.	
31.	8.4.20	Letter to Labour Minister with a request to consider paying ESI contribution from the Atal Bimit Vyakthi Kalyan Yojna and in the absence of the same Industry may be allowed to defer the Employer's ESI Contribution by three months.	Letter Copied to Secretary labour and DG, Employment of MOLE.
32.	8.4.20	Letter to Labour Minister on requesting the Govt to pay the Employer's portion of EPF for the months of March-June 2020 and if the same is not possible the industry may be allowed to defer the payment of its contribution by 60 days.	Copied to Labour Secretary, Chief Labour Commissioner and PF Commr.
33.	8.4.20	Letter to Commerce Minister after the Video Conference held on 8.4.20. Chairman raised the following points during the VC and later send on letter also. PF, ESI, Request to operate the Sample Division of the Factory with 25-50 members. Starting of Courier Services and other Banking Issues etc., Also high lighted the Extn. Of Interest subvention.	Letter Copied to Secretary Commerce, DGFT, Addl.Secy.Commerce and JS-34. EP MOC
34	10.4.20	Letter to JS Logistics Min.of Commerce alongwith a note on Logistic Issues on Shipping, Railways, Electronic Vehicle etc., which needs immediate attention on post COVID-19 period.	
35.	10.4.20	Letter to Mr.Praveen Kumar Jt.Director EP MOC – reply to their letter dt. 8.4.20 on Change in trends of India's Exports of the Textile Sector due to Corona Virus impact. Highlighted all the issues related to fall in Exports to US/EU and also various other issues because of Buyers refusal to accept /honour the order etc., Pendency of ROSCTL, ROSL, IGST & ITC refunds etc.,	

36.	10.4.20	Letter to Chairman CBIC – requesting for conditional but immediate release of IGST Pendency for risky exporters. M/s.Jyoti Apparel's Case has been referred for their ref.	
37.	10.4.20	Letter to Sh.Vijoy Kr.Singh IAS, Addl.Secy. MOT after the VC held on 10.4.20. The points raised during the VC are Gradual Opening of Factories, Cargo Movements and other issues related to Logistics.	
38.	11.4.20	Letter to Secretary Textile requesting him to include the EOUs and SEZ into the ROSCTL Scheme w.e.f. 7 th March 2019 in lieu of MEIS	
39.	12.4.20	DO Letter to 13 State Chief Ministers and its Chief Secretaries with a request to allow the Apparel Export Industry to partially open their factories and also assured them that Industry will follow the Health Care Guidelines of Central and State Govt..	Copied to all Chief Secretaries (13 States)
40.	13.4.20	Letter to Dr.Guruprasad Mohapatra, IAS Secretary DPITT requesting him to allow the Cargo Movement of Apparel Export Industry and also requesting him for partial opening of the Factories with minimum staff to enable the industry to export the finished goods.	Copied to Secretaries of Commerce, Textiles, Logistics, DGFT and Addl.Secy. of MOT.
41.	16.4.20	Letter to Mr Piyush Goyal Commerce Minister with a request to extend the Interest Equalisation scheme beyond 31 st March 2020 and also requested for 55 enhancement of this Interest Equaliation to all Apparel Exporters at par with MSME units.	
42.	17.4.20	Letter to RBI Governor requesting for Waiver on charges for exchange rate fluctuations and cancellations, extension of Packing Credit period for existing loans by six months, Increase in Working Capital minimum by 25% without any additional collateral and also no penalty on forward covers.	

43.	17.4.20	<i>DO Letter to HMOT with a request allow to open the Apparel Export Industry as per the MHA Order issued on 15th April 2020.</i>	
44.	20.4.20	<i>DO Letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India with a humble request for payment of Wages of the Apparel Export Industry by Gol from the funds available in the Atal Bimit Vyakthi Kalyan Yojna (ABVKY)</i>	<i>Letter copied with covering letter to Hon'ble Ministers of Finance, Commerce, Textiles, MSME and Labour alongwith their Departmental Secretaries. PF Commr and Labour Commr.</i>
45.	21.4.20	<i>DO Letter to Jt.Secretary EP, MOC on feedback while opening the factories as per the Guidelines of MHA issued on 15th April 2020. DO letter addressed to PM on 31st March 2020 also annexed.</i>	



AEPC requests made to Govt. and announcements their off

S. No.	Concerns to	Requested for	Whether Accepted	Notification No./Public Notice no.
1	DGFT	Extension of FTP	Accepted	57/2015-20 dated 31st March, 2020
2		Validity of all import instruments like advance licence, EPCG etc., may be extended by further 12 months, without any penalty	Accepted	PN 67/2015-20 dated 31 March, 2020
3		All Export Obligations Period (EOP) imposed on duty exemption schemes, may kindly be extended for a further period of 12 months, without any penalty	Accepted	PN 67/2015-20 dated 31 March, 2020
4		MEIS scheme may be reintroduced	Awaited	
5		Clarification regarding export policy of PPE & Mask	Awaited	
6	Ministry of Textiles	Extension of ROSCTL	Accepted	Announced on 25 MAR 2020 and notified on 17 April, 2020 vide notification no. F.No.12015/11/2020TTP
7		Easing out Reimbursement Schemes like ROSCTL (Direct Cash Transfer)	Awaited	
8	Reserve Bank of India	Term loans EMI's should be postponed by one year	Partially Accepted for three months	RBI/2019-20/186 DOR.No.BP.BC.47/21.04.048/201920 dated March 27, 2020

S. No.	Concerns to	Requested for	Whether Accepted	Notification No./Public Notice no.
9		RBI may extend the Bill realisation period by six months in view of the liquidity challenges	Accepted	RBI/2019-20/206 A. P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 27 dated 1 April, 2020
10		In respect of working capital facilities sanctioned in the form of cash credit/overdraft ("CC/OD"), lending institutions are permitted to defer the recovery of interest applied in respect of all such facilities during the period from March 1, 2020 upto May 31, 2020	Accepted	RBI/2019-20/206 A. P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 27 dated 1 April, 2020
11		Exemption from caution listing of exporters by RBI may be extended from 31.3.2020 to 31.3.2021	Partial relaxation granted	
12		Interest and instalment defaults period for NPA's should be 6 months instead of 3 months without downgrading	Partial relaxation granted	RBI/2019-20/186 DOR.No.BP.BC.47/21.04.048/201920 dated March 27, 2020
13		Packing credit period for existing loans, may be extended by six months	Awaited	
14		Forward contract limits should be enhanced automatically by banks by 50 percent in view of foreign exchange fluctuations	Awaited	
15		Interest Equalization Scheme may be enhanced by Government from 3%	Awaited	

S. No.	Concerns to	Requested for	Whether Accepted	Notification No./Public Notice no.
		to 5% for all Apparel exporters.		
16		The Interest Equalization Scheme may be extended for a period of 2 years up to 31st March 2022		
17		Restructuring of loans and existing limits must not be treated as downgrading of account and no penalty on cancellations.	Awaited	
18		Working capital limits by minimum 25% without any additional collaterals.	Awaited	
19		There should be no penalty on forward covers	Awaited	
20		Interest portion be converted into a separate loan (like working capital) and a suitable repayment schedule be fixed based on future cash-flows	Awaited	
21		Industry may be allowed to defer payment of PF/ESI and electricity charges by a period of three months	Yes Date of filing extended	P-11/14/Misc./1/2019-Rev 13.04.2020 No. C-I/Misc./2019-20/V01.II./Part./9 dated 15 April, 2020
22	PF & ESI	Appeal to waive the EPF & ESI (both Employers' and Employees) contributions for the months of March, April, & May 2020	Awaited	
23	Department of Revenue	To defer the payment of GST dues for a period of three	Awaited	

S. No.	Concerns to	Requested for	Whether Accepted	Notification No./Public Notice no.
		months without penalty		
24	Wages & labour	Wages of our workers may be made out of the ESI funds which we are paying regularly over the years	Awaited Date of filing extended	
25		Government may kindly pay for the employer's portion of EPF for the months of March/April/May/June, 2020 irrespective of number of workers employed	Awaited	
26		Government may kindly contribute towards Salaries of employees for six weeks, or till normalcy resumes	Awaited	
27		Apparel export industry may be allowed to operate for their sample division with minimum workforce of 2550 nos.	Awaited	
28		Payments of labour wages, PF and ESI	Awaited	
29	Civil Aviation	Waiver of demurrage charges on Import/Export shipments of Apparel	Partially Accepted	F. No. AV -2901214112020-ER) dated 01.04.2020
30	Customs	Extension of date for removing SB005 error	Accepted	Circular No. 22/2020-Customs dated 21st April, 2020
31	MHA/ Miscellaneous	Courier services should be allowed to operate immediately	Accepted	MHA circular