



## Apparel Export Promotion Council

### **5 lakh accounts have been mobilised for textile industry workers post demonization in three weeks- Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani**

#### **Textile Minister presents AEPC 2015-16 Awards for Excellence in Global Exporters in Apparel Sector**

**New Delhi, December 20, 2016:** Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) honoured the Apparel exporters for their invaluable contribution in Indian readymade garment exports, by presenting the AEPC Export Awards, 2015-2016 at New Delhi. Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Textile encouraged AEPC and garment exporters to be a partner in the Governments efforts towards job creation through value driven manufacturing and exports.

**Speaking on the occasion Hon'ble Union Minister of Textile, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, said,** "We will do our utmost within our constitutional framework to strengthen the industry. In the wake of demonetization, the Textile Ministry has helped open 5 lakh bank accounts for associated workers in the industry in a period of three weeks. We are also ensuring that the workers are trained to digitally use their bank accounts."

**She further added,** "To further promote exports, there should an award for the best player in emerging market in the next award season. Industry should also head towards sustainable garments from an international perspective; and should look for innovation either in marketing or technology."

**Hon'ble Union Minister of Textile, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani** presented the awards comprising twenty one categories. The award categories have been diversified into further segmentation to encourage the SME sector. Minister of State of Textiles, Ajay Tamta; and Chairman AEPC, Mr. Ashok G Rajani; along with the other executive members and government officials from various ministries were also present at the event to showcase commitment towards strengthening India's apparel export industry.

The awards were divided into multiple categories; and the key awards were:

#### **Global exports above Rs. 500 crore**

- Shahi Exports Pvt. Ltd., Harish Ahuja, Managing Director (Faridabad, Haryana)
- Orient Craft Ltd., Mr. Sudhir Dhingra, CMD (Gurgaon, Haryana)
- Gokaldas Exports Ltd, Mr. P. Ramababu, Vice Chairman and MD (Bangalore)

**Award winner for new entrepreneur**

- Million Exports Private Ltd., Mr Narinder Chug (New Delhi)

**Award winner for the highest exports to Japan**

- Lodha Impex, Dalpat Lodha, Proprietor (Jaipur)

**Speaking on the occasion Mr. Ashok G Rajani, Chairman AEPC, said,** “AEPC Export awards extend across diverse categories and include both experienced and start-up representations. The awards have been instituted with the aim to encourage Indian Apparel exporters to increase their export capacities and enhance competitiveness amongst firms to capture the global markets. We have an ambitious target for export and job creation in the next three years - I call upon the winners to be mentors to the start ups and SMEs in this sector and together strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem.”

India’s garment exports had been facing problem of stagnation since last year, due to depressed market conditions in the major markets like USA and EU. However, since the announcement of the Rs 6000 cr Special Package in June 2016, there has been some optimism in the industry, and exports have picked up. Garment sector alone accounted for more than 47% share in all textile goods exports from India to world. India exported worth of USD 10.96 billion garments to world during the April-Nov 2016. In the last fiscal India’s garment exports were to the tune of USD 16.9 billion.

**About Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)**

Incorporated in 1978, AEPC is the official body of apparel exporters in India that provides invaluable assistance to Indian exporters as well as importers/ international buyers who choose India as their preferred sourcing destination for garments. In recent years AEPC has worked tirelessly in integrating the entire industry - starting at the grass root level of training the workforce and supplying a steady stream of man power to the industry; identifying the best countries to source machinery and other infrastructure and brokering several path breaking deals for its members and finally helping exporters to showcase their best at home fairs as well as be highly visible at international fairs the world over. With AEPC's expertise and all the advantages that India has, it makes for a truly win-win situation - Indian exporters grow stronger each year in their achievements, skills and proficiency, while international buyers get superior solutions for their garment imports.

Web site: <http://www.aepcindia.com/>

**For further information, please contact:**

Chandrima Chatterjee -advisorcc@aepcindia.com (9810448917)