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Speech by **Shri H. K. L. Magu**, Chairman, AEPC
at **40th AEPC Annual General Meeting**

Niryat Bhawan, Rao Tula Ram Marg, New Delhi-110057
23rd September, 2019





H. K. L. Magu
Chairman, AEPC



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Apparel Export Promotion Council and on my personal behalf, I take great pleasure in extending a very hearty and warm welcome to all of you at this 40th Annual General Meeting of the Apparel Export Promotion Council. The Notice convening the meeting, the Annual Report for the financial year ended 31st March 2019, along with Annual Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report have been with you, and with your permission, I take them as read.

EXPORT PERFORMANCE AND PROMOTION

2018-19 recorded apparel exports worth US\$16156mn with 3.4 percent decline over last year. The decline is due to constraints like benefit of GST not visible in lower input prices like fabrics, embedded taxes last year, decline in exports to EU market due to duty disadvantage with Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka etc.

EU has remained the top region for India's RMG exports; India's exports to EU was worth US\$ 6199.5 mn. in 2018-19; which has decreased from US\$ 6413.9 mn. in 2017-18; registering a decline of 3.3 percent in 2018-19 as compared to previous year. Moreover, EU's share in India's RMG exports is 38.4% in 2018-19

In 2018-19, USA remained the largest destination country with exports worth USD 4166; registering a growth of 7.8%.

India's RMG exports to UAE amounted to USD 1991.2 mn. in 2018-19 as compared to USD 2817 mn in 2017-18 showing a double digit decline of 29.3%. Share of UAE in 2018-19 has decreased to 12.3% from 16.8% in 2017-18.

In the last 5 years Bangladesh, Viet Nam and Cambodia have shown CAGR growth of 9.1%, 24.3% and 11% while India's exports growth is in the negative. The rank of India in Global apparel exports is 6th.

In this drive, we participated in various overseas events and organized a few over the year. These are listed here below:



FAIRS/BSMS FROM APRIL 2018 TO SEPTEMBER, 2019

(A) Overseas Fairs (Council's regular participation in overseas events)

- (i) **Hong Kong Fashion Week, Hong Kong (9-12 July, 2018)** - The Council participated in Hong Kong Fashion Week, Hong Kong held from 9-12 July, 2018 with 30 booths from India. 9500 visitors from 20 countries visited the fair. The event was approved under MAI scheme.
- (ii) **Sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas, USA (12-15 August, 2018)** - The Council participated in Sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas Fair held from 12-15 August, 2018 with 66 booths. 2000 visitors visited the India Pavilion. The event was approved under MAI scheme.
- (iii) **India Trend Fair, Tokyo, Japan** - The Council participated in 4th edition of India Trend Fair, Tokyo, Japan held from 19-21 Sept., 2018 with 42 booths from India. 1804 buyers visited the fair in 3 days. The event was approved under MAI scheme.
- (iv) **International Sourcing Expo, Sydney, Australia (20-22 Nov., 2018)** – AEPC participated with 10 booths in the fair. The event was approved under MAI scheme.
- (v) **Sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas, USA (4-7 Feb., 2019)** - The Council participated in Sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas Fair held from 4-7 Feb., 2019 with 56 booths. 14914 buyers visited the fair. The event was approved under MAI scheme.
- (vi) **Hong Kong Fashion Week, Hong Kong (8-11 July, 2019)** - The Council participated in Hong Kong Fashion Week, Hong Kong held from 8-11 July, 2019 with 14 booths. 9000 visitors from 15 countries visited the fair. The event was approved under MAI scheme.

Under regular activities, Council is also participating in Apparel & Accessories Fair, Madrid scheduled to be held from 9-10 Oct., 2019 and International Sourcing Expo scheduled to be held from 12-14 Nov., 2019 at Australia. Both events are approved under MAI scheme.



(B) Council's 1st time participation in Overseas Events

- (i) **Pure London, UK** - Council participated in Pure London (in pure origin section), UK held from 22-24 July, 2018 at London. The Council participated with 30 booths. 9875 visitors visited the fair. The event was approved under MAI scheme.
- (ii) **Apparel Textile Sourcing Canada (ATSC), Canada (20-22 August, 2018)** – Council participated in Apparel Textile Sourcing Fair, Canada held from 20-22 August, 2018 with 10 booths. 4500 visitors visited the fair. The event was approved under MAI scheme.

(C) Council's New Overseas Initiatives

Council under new initiative participated in Who's Next Fair held from 6-9 Sept., 2019 at Paris, France with 20 booths. The event is approved under MAI scheme.

BUYER SELLER MEETS

Buyer Seller Meet at Madrid in Spain (3-4 October, 2018) – The Council participated with 40 booths. Total 171 buyers visited at Madrid and total business generated was US\$ 4.30 mn. during the BSM at Madrid. The event was approved under MAI scheme.

INTERNATIONAL HIGH LEVEL TRADE DELEGATIONS

Exploratory visit of High Level Trade Delegation of AEPC to Prague (Czech Republic), Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Zagreb (Croatia) 3-11 Dec., 2018.

Under exploratory visit, a High Level Trade Delegation of 3 members under the leadership of Sh. H K L Magu, Chairman-AEPC visited Prague (Czech Republic), Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Zagreb (Croatia) 3-11 Dec., 2018.

The objectives of the Delegation were:

To meet garment Buyers, Associations, chain stores, Departmental stores and big importers dealing in garment buying with a view to set up institutional mechanism for increasing exports of garments from India to Czech Republic, Slovenia and Zagreb. The delegation also invited garment buyers to India Intl' Garment Fair scheduled in 16-18 Jan. 2019.



DOMESTIC EVENTS:

Fashion Forecast Seminar in association with WGSN Ltd.

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) under awareness initiatives program kick started the first Fashion Forecasting Seminars on 25th March 2019 at Apparel House, Gurgaon for Spring & summer 2020 & Autumn-Winter 2020-21 seasons. The seminars were organized by AEPC during March & April 2019 pan India (Gurgaon, Tirupur, Bangalore, Mumbai, Noida, Kolkata, Ludhiana & Jaipur) in association with WGSN, the leading trend forecasting agency of the world.

At the presentation, speakers covered and provided insights on Key Commercial Items, colors and trends for spring – summer 2020 and Textile Trends for AW 20/21.

Speakers also covered the methodology on how trends are forecasted at WGSN along with how trends are dissected into macro trends.

A total of 614 no. of participants/garment exporters benefitted from the seminars. Overall responses of the seminars was overwhelming and participants recommended for organization of such seminars more frequently through WGSN.

Council is also providing WGSN online fashion forecast services free of charge to all its members. Members also availing the services at any of the AEPC offices located near to them.

New Initiative - A Fashion Forecast Seminar / Workshop was organized by Japan India Industry Promotion Association (JIIPA) on 06th June, 2019 at Apparel House, Gurgaon to facilitate the exhibitors and to know more about the trends, patterns prevailing in the Japanese market. There were two sessions of this seminar/workshop; first session was Seminar and second session was one to one meeting with participants of ITF, Japan.

IMPORTANT ISSUES TAKEN-UP BY AEPC WITH VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

As one the leading Textile councils of the country, we have always played a crucial role in policy making and advocacy with the Government. We submitted our representation to Drawback committee to consider taxes not



subsumed in GST like embedded taxes on purchase of ginned cotton, State VAT on petroleum products used as a fuel in transportation, Mandi Tax, Green Tax, Stamp Duty, Electricity duty, purchase from unregistered dealers and embedded taxes on MMF etc. We requested to change the nomenclature of ROSL to read as ROSCL to cover rebate of both State and Centre levies.

Ministry of Textiles had accepted the recommendation of AEPC and notified a new scheme called Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (ROSCTL) on export of garments and made-ups vide on & March, 2019 to rebate all embedded State and Central Taxes and Levies on garments and made-ups to enhance competitiveness of these sectors. The ministry in the same notification states that the ROSCTL shall be implemented through a Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) type scrip system.

The rates for ROSCTL are in the range of 3.8% to 5.4%

We had also submitted our representation to Drawback Committee for enhancement of Duty Drawback rates. In this regard All Industry Rates of Duty Drawback were announced on 6 December, 2019. The range of Duty Drawback rates are 1.8% to 5.2%

We have been pursuing the following matters with the Government:

I) GST Related Issue

- Representation sent to Director General of Export Promotion –CBIC on April 17, 2018 related to IGST issues-delay in refund of IGST and ITC credit
- Representation sent to Secretary, Ministry of Finance on June 6, 2018 regarding issues pertaining to IGST and ITC refunds
- Representation sent to Minister of Textiles on June 29, 2018 requesting to allow exporters to file refund application with whatever EGM Nos are available and balance in next month, to allow refund of input tax credit of all goods and services and to allow electronic ledger balance credit to be part of refund claim filed during relevant period
- Representation sent to JS, CBEC on July 5, 2018 to replace the definition of the term Net ITC.
- Representation sent to Finance Secretary on October 8, 2018 requesting to consider Buying Agent services for export of readymade garments as Zero Rates Supplies



ii) Drawback & ROSL related

- Representation sent to Minister of Textiles on May 9, 2018 related to reimbursement of central taxes through GST credit; requesting Drawback committee to re-examine ROSL scheme for 2018 and Extension of MEIS scheme
- Cost Data submitted to Chairman - Drawback committee, JS - Deptt. of Revenue and Trade Advisor - MoT requesting to change the nomenclature of ROSL to read as ROSCL to cover rebate of both State and Centre levies –
Ministry has accepted the recommendation of AEPC and included central embedded taxes in ROSL and changed name to Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (ROSCTL)
- Representation sent to Minister of Textiles on June 29, 2018 regarding reimbursement of embedded state level taxes through existing ROSL scheme.
- Representation sent to Chairman Drawback committee on August 31, 2018 regarding determination of all industry rate of drawback 2018-19 for readymade garments for reimbursement of actual incidence of custom duties suffered on imported inputs.
- Representation sent to Principal Secretary to PM, PMO on September 7, 2018 requesting finalization of ROSL rates.
- Representation sent to Trade Advisor, MOT on October 29, 2018 requesting to release ROSL funds
- Representation sent to Chairman, Drawback Committee on December 10, 2018 to consider increase in Duty Drawback Rates for apparel sector and to expedite announcement of increased ROSL rates

iii) Constraints and Issues of Apparel sector related

- Representation sent to NITI Aayog on May 1, 2018 to resolve the issues in Apparel Sector like logistics, lack of market access, non-availability of fabrics, wages and potential for development of apparel clusters
- Representation sent to Minister of Textiles on May 21, 2018 regarding apparel sector's concern in view of declining trends in production and exports and to work out strategy like faster release of IGST, ITC & ROSL Refunds, refund of embedded taxes, WTO compliant incentive schemes for enhancing competitiveness etc. of the Indian Apparel Sector
- Representation sent to Secretary, Ministry of Textiles on May 23, 2018 to review the local constraints for apparel and make necessary amendments in the order dated 15/5/2018



- Representation sent to Minister of Finance and Minister of Textiles on May 27, 2018 highlighting certain issues such as sharp reduction in Drawback & ROSL rates post GST, Reimbursement of Central taxes not being reimbursed through GST credits/Drawback, Reimbursement of State taxes not being reimbursed through GST credit/ROSL, to review the rates and considering the blocked /embedded taxes, Continuation of pre-GST drawback scheme till introduction of e-wallet, Early conclusion of CEPA/CECA/FTA with “Canada, Australia and EU, Insulate Rupee from currency fluctuations and WTO compliant incentive schemes for readymade garment industry
- Representation sent to Hon'ble Minister of Textiles on June 18, 2018 highlighting issue related to increase in yarn prices badly affecting the Tirupur and Ludhiana cluster
- Presentation made to NITI Aayog and BOT. Measures like setting of smart factories, capacity building by digitalization, enhance women employment, product development, FTA with EU and CEPA with Australia & Canada, enhance the ambit of interest equalization scheme were proposed

(iv) Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) related

- Representation sent to DGFT on July 23, 2018 regarding difficulties in fulfillment of Export Obligation (EO) by Common Service Provider (CSP) against EPCG authorization
- Representation sent to DGFT on September 13, 2018 requesting permission of EODC through Group Company in terms of and difficulties in fulfillment of Export obligations by 3rd party suppliers
- Representation sent to DGFT on February 25, 2019 for inclusion of Noida in the list of Town of Export Excellence (TEE)
- Representation sent to Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry on 14 March, 2019 requesting for continuation of current MEIS rates.

(v) ATUFS

- Representations on recommendations for simplification in the implementation of ATUFS policy in garment export sector
- Representation sent to Textile Commissioner on 30 May, 2019 for inclusion of Button Feeder in TUF Scheme



vi) Others

- Representation sent to Textile Commissioner on May 30, 2018 requesting to verify authenticity from respective Machinery Manufacturers website and waive off of machinery manufacturers registration with Textile Commissioner.
- Representation dated June 29, 2018 sent to Minister of Textiles on regarding replacement of MEIS by WTO compatible schemes
- Representation dated June 29, 2018 sent to Addl. Chief Secretary, Govt of Maharashtra on seeking clarification on exemption from plastic ban for export purpose to the manufacturer, merchant exporters and job workers.
- Representation dated July 4, 2018 sent to Minister of Commerce & Industry on requesting to review ECGC premium rates for garment exporters.
- Representation dated July 9, 2019 sent to Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India on to consider inclusion of Chairman, AEPC on the Board during discussion on tariff finalization –Cargo Handling Services at Cargo Terminal, New Delhi.
- Representation dated September 27, 2018 sent to Secretary, Ministry of Textiles on requesting to launch Good Management Practices in the readymade garment sector.
- Representation dated October 31, 2018 sent to Secretary, Textiles on enclosing study on present Export related scheme and recommendations for alternate WTO compatible scheme for Apparel Sector.
- Representation dated March 25, 2019 sent to Chairman, IRDAI, Hyderabad on to review insurance premium rate revision in textile and apparel industry.

Other Activities undertaken by AEPC

i) IGST refund camp:

IGST refund camp has been set up at AEPC Tirupur office for clearing pending IGST Claims from 20th July to 1st August 2018 to facilitate the exporters' for clearing their IGST claims with the help of Customs Officials related to any Ports.

ii) Exporter Meet on enhancing export risk management through ECGC:

An Exporter Meet on enhancing export risk management through ECGC was



conducted on 26th July 2018 at Apparel House, Gurgaon to know about the ECGC products for risk management in Apparel trade. The meeting was organized in association with ECGC Ltd.

iii) Seminar on Investment opportunities in Haryana:

AEPC organized a seminar on Investment opportunities in Haryana at Apparel House, Gurugram on November 29th, 2018 in collaboration with Invest Haryana & Haryana Enterprise and Promotion Centre (HEPC). The Seminar included a presentation on the Haryana Textile & Apparel policy 2018 by Mr. M K Sardana, GM, HEPC.

iv) Seminar on AEO Program, Trade Facilitation Agreement & Currency Risk Management

AEPC organized a seminar on AEO Program, Trade Facilitation Agreement & Currency Risk Management in association with Mumbai Customs & Emkay Global Financial Services on January 24, 2019. Shri Ravi Kumar, Asstt. Commissioner, AEO cell, Mumbai Customs Department gave a power point presentation on authorized economic operator. Indian Customs department signed two mutual recognition agreements with Customs Administrations of South Korea and Hongkong. In addition, AEPC as part of its initiative to create awareness and clarity about the Authorized Economic Operator Program among apparel exporters organized workshop in Noida with the Office of the Noida Customs Commissioner. Shri. Govind Krishna Dixit, Commissioner, Shri Nitesh, Srivastava, Additional Commissioner & Shri P S Saini, Assistant Commissioner from Office of the Noida Customs Commissionerate and Ms. Deepa Goyal, Consultant, M/s Jurispetus were present to brief the exporters about AEO program

v) B2B meeting with Sri Lankan Delegation:

AEPC held B2B interactions between India and Sri Lanka on 26th September, 2018 at Apparel House, Gurgaon that were aimed at increasing trade relations between the two countries. India proposed that Sri Lanka should share its knowledge on microfiber fabrics and products, technology while India should provide knowledge on value added products, designing and products development. It was attended by Ms. Aditi Das Rout, Trade Advisor, MOT, AG Nimal Karunatilake, Actg. Addl. DG, Deptt. of Commerce, Sri Lanka, Ms.



Upekkha Samaratinga, Minister (Commercial) Sri Lanka High Commission, Ms. S B Nanda, US, Ministry of Commerce and others.

STUDY DONE BY AEPC

I) Study on present export related scheme and recommendations for alternate WTO compatible Scheme for apparel sector

A study was conducted by AEPC regarding some futuristic WTO compatible scheme for garment industry. The proposed alternative schemes in the study includes the broad aspect of the industry and proposes incentives in Wage, product development, compliance cost, and logistics cost etc. The propose alternative schemes is focused on increasing the scale of production.

ii) Location analysis for selected cities in Jharkhand and Odisha for Apparel Sector

In the year 2017, AEPC had conducted location analysis for selected cities in Jharkhand and Odisha for apparel Sector. As per report, Jharkhand in its Industrial and Investment Promotion policy 2016 has declared textile as a “Thrust Area”. Jharkhand has experienced phenomenal growth in sericulture sector. Jharkhand ranks first in the country in production of Tasar Silk. Odisha is emerging as one of the top destinations for apparel manufacturing in the Country. Apparel is on of the identified focus sectors of the state as part of our vision 2025 for industrial development. Odisha offers abundant skilled workforce for the apparel sector. With multiple dedicated locations identified for setting up apparel parks, competitive land rates and ready to occupy industrial sheds, Odisha offers a compelling value proposition for units in the apparel sector. Taking into account both Jharkhand and Odisha offer huge investment opportunity in apparel sector.

iii) Market Focus Report

We have published Market Focus Report- India's business possibilities with The United Kingdom vertical-Apparel and Apparel Accessories” which provides the analysis of India's sustainability in the apparel market of UK and focuses on the prospects for broadening the scope of India's apparel export to UK.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVE

Day Care Centre for Apparel workers children



As a part of its corporate social responsibility, AEPC had tied up with two leading NGOs to manage day care centres for apparel workers children in NOIDA and Kapashera, New Delhi. These centres supported the children of women workers from the vicinity. These centres were fully equipped with amenities required for providing a safe and stimulating environment for children in the age group of 3-15 years.

AEPC & Marks & Spencer launch Gender Equality program

AEPC and Marks & Spencer, India signed a Memorandum of Understanding on January 3, 2019 to explore avenues for working together on a program on Gender Equality through work place training. Both the organizations through this collaboration asserted their support for the larger objective of creating just and equal workplaces and in turn equal societies and perception. They launched the Gender Equality Programme on March 13, 2019 in Apparel House, Gurugram, Haryana.

PARTNERING MISSION MODE CAMPAIGN

i) Swachhta Hi Seva (SHS):

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) has joined hands with the Ministry of Textiles (MoT), Government of India (GoI) to spread awareness on the importance of cleanliness through the campaign Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) from 15th September to 2nd October 2018.

The Council kicked off the campaign with a camp at AEPC's Okhla office. The campaign was inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles **Smt. Smriti Zubinlrani** in the presence of Chairman of AEPC **Shri HKL Magu**, Heads of garment industry associations (GEA, OGTC, AEMA, NAEC and Delhi Exporters Association) and industry members, ATDC students and workers from the local factories. The Swachhata Hi Seva campaign stresses on Shramdan.

During campaign, officials of AEPC, HO and its regional offices briefed about importance of cleanliness and encouraged to use separate dustbins for disposal of plastics & papers, keep the dry and wet waste separately and take steps to keep the work place and surrounding area hygienic.

ii) Fabric of unity

In celebration of unveiling of 'Statue of Unity' at Gujarat on 31 October, 2018.



AEPC had organized "Fabric of Unity", an event to celebrate Indian Textiles, an embodiment of National integrity of the country. The event was graced by **Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani**, Honorable Union Minister of Textiles, Govt. of India at Apparel House, Sector 44, Gurugram and **Shri HKL Magu**, Chairman, AEPC and other EC Members, Senior representatives of Ministry of Textiles and from the other Textiles Councils, Associations, Representatives from brands, ETI, ATDC faculty, students, NGOs working in this sector were also present at the event. On the occasion, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles also flagged off The March for Unity.

APPAREL INDIA MAGAZINE

As part of our responsibility towards the environment, the apparel India magazine moved into an e-magazine from April 2018 onwards, so that our voice and vision reaches far and wide, without adverse environmental footprints.

SKILL ASSESSMENT CELL

In its continuous efforts to integrate the entire apparel & textile industry at the grass root level and to facilitate the supply of trained manpower to the industry, AEPC continued its initiatives by assessing skills of trained candidates by various training providers and vocational institutes across the country.

The AEPC Skill Assessment Cell with headquarterd at Apparel House, Gurgaon along with its Regional Offices in Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata & Mumbai executing the micro level implementation of the Schemes. The assessments are conducted on Pan-India level through these offices for MES, Non MES and PMKVY Courses. Since its inception AEPC Skill Assessment Cell has assessed approx... 1.53 lakh candidates as on date.

Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) under the Skill Development Initiative (SDI) scheme has authorised AEPC to conduct MES Assessments in the Apparel/Garment, Khadi & Carpet sectors.

Resource Support Agency, Textile Committee has also empanelled AEPC as Assessment Agency for undertaking assessment of trainees trained for Non-MES courses under the Integrated Skill Development Scheme (ISDS) of Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India.

Sector Skill Council for Apparel, Made-ups and Home Furnishings (SSC-AMH) has also empanelled AEPC to commence assessments in various schemes of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India.



AEPC Skill Assessment Cell having 56 assessors to conduct the assessment on pan India basis. Out of which 22 assessors certified by SSC-AMH, 14 assessors certified by DGE&T and 20 assessors certified by RSA, textile Committee.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

- i) The AEPC premise at Bajaj Bhawan, Mumbai having 3838 sq. ft. area and out of which 1705 sq. ft. area leased out to M/s. Suntuity Renewable Energy India LLP @Rs. 190/- per sq. ft. per month for 5 years w.e.f. 11.06.2018 as per Executive Committee approval.
- ii) Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) approved the Sanctioned Layout Plan for construction of building at balance vacant land 3.3708 acre at Hyderabad by covering apprx. 20000 sq. ft. area. M/s. NJR Constructions Pvt. Ltd. appointed as Project Contractor and work awarded during March, 2019 for Rs. 4.10 Crores + GST. The total project Budget of Rs. 4.85 Crores + GST approved by Executive Committee of the Council. The construction work is in full swing and will be completed within stipulated time period of 1 year.
- iii) As per Executive Committee decision, out of Court settlement in the matter of Ms. Rajni Jain Vs. AEPC suit no. RC ARC/21/2018 filed at Hon'ble District Court, Saket, New Delhi under mediation cell and Ms. Rajni Jain, landlady withdrew the case without any condition and accordingly the keys of Flat No. 405, Sahyog Building, Nehru Place were handed over to the landlady in the court.
- iv) The ducted / window Air-conditioners of AEPC Premises at Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi rented out to M/s. NICSI and Karumuttu Centre, Chennai rented out to M/s. Dilly Learning Pvt. Ltd. replaced under buy-back scheme.
- v) The Lease Agreement of unit no. 7, 8 and 9 having 2790 sq. ft. area extended for 3 years w.e.f. 01.05.2018 with M/s. T. T. Enterprises for AEPC premises at Raheja Chambers, Bangalore.
- vi) The AEPC premises having 5610 sq. ft. area rented out to M/s. Dilly Learning Pvt. Ltd. for 5 years w.e.f. 01.02.2018, however, due to their financial crunches and nonpayment of monthly rentals w.e.f. November, 2018 onwards, the tenant vacated premises on 30.04.2019 and office filed Court case u/s 138 (NIA) at Delhi and recovery suit at Chennai court by following the office procedure as per approval of Executive Committee.



- (vii) The statutory taxes such as property tax, maintenance charges cess etc. have been deposited with authority concerned in respect to AEPC's premises wherever applicable.

APPAREL HOUSE

The Apparel House, a premiere hub for International trade in apparel and accessories, has Showrooms, Auditorium, Exhibition Hall, Art Gallery, Cafeteria, Plaza Area, Amphi theater, conference room and Bank is located at Gurgaon.

We have facilitated various EC approved events in Exhibition Hall, Auditorium and Art Gallery which has helped to a great extent in offsetting the huge maintenance cost of Apparel House. In addition, the Car Parking System has also resulted in a source of revenue to Apparel House. A multi cuisine restaurant is in operation at Apparel House to cater the needs of the exhibitors / visitors.

Energy audit has been conducted to identify various possibilities to conserve energy and to explore better alternatives. Based on the suggestion of the energy audit, the existing lights of Exhibition Hall, Auditorium, Art Gallery, outer lights, ground and first floor have been replaced with LED lights.

Fire safety training was imparted to the facility management staff deputed at Apparel House by the trained Fire & Safety Officer from time to time in order to make them aware about the precautions to be followed in the event of fire in the building and educated them about the use of fire equipments and procedure to provide first aid to fire victims etc.

HUMAN RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

I) Health Camp

Council in association with its insurer, M/s. The New India Assurance Co. Ltd. and TPA M/s. Vipul Medcorp TPA Private Limited had organized '**Health Camp**' for Council's employees based at HO/Delhi/NCR.

The camp had facilities for medical tests/consultation for Dental, HbA1C, Body Composition Analysis (BCA) with Diet Consultation, Hair & Scalp examination/consultation, Eye Camp and Cardiac consultation including examination of Body Mass Index (BMI), Random blood sugar, blood pressure and ECG facility. The Health Camp was conducted under the supervision of qualified health specialists from renowned medical institutes/hospitals.



Over 70 employees of the Council attended the Health Camp and most of the employees were found healthy and fit.

ii) International Women's Day Celebration

Council celebrated the International Women's Day on 8th March, 2019 and following activities were organized on the occasion at Head Office and other Regional offices of the Council:

- i. A rose bud with chocolate was presented to all the female employees of the Council which was followed by a cake cutting ceremony in all the offices of the Council
- ii. Wishes through e-card were circulated to all the employees of the council
- iii. A gift was also given to all the female employees of the Council.

iii) e-Learning Forum

Considering the fact that organizational support plays a vital role in encouraging its employees to enhance their own skills, competencies and personalities, council initiated its e-based knowledge sharing platform. Under this banner we aspired to circulate through e-mail many articles, small presentations, view clippings, reports, case studies etc. on fortnightly basis on various topics.

iv) Launch of Policy on Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Sexual Harassment of women at work place

A detailed policy has been circulated and uploaded in council's website on the prevention, prohibition and Redressal Sexual Harassment of women at work place of the Council and necessary provisions were incorporated in the Rules of Discipline 1983 of the Council's Service Rules, as given in The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013.

v) International Yoga Day

To mark the International Yoga Day council had organized a Yoga Session on 21st June, 2018 at Apparel House, Gurgaon. In the 40 minutes morning session employees were taught and practiced those asanas that will help them in declining stress related sick occurrence and keep them fresh and revitalized



throughout the day. Daily practicing of these asanas will also help in improving their concentration, decision-making skills and the ability to multi-task. Participants appreciated the efforts and realized the importance of Yoga for a healthy life.

vi) World Environment Day

On 5th June, 2018 we celebrated the “World Environment Day” in order to sensitize all our fellow colleagues that how we are part of nature and how intimately we depend on it. As per the theme of this year's World Environment Day i.e. “Plastic Pollution” employees were shared with few facts how plastic has destroyed the environment and also how we can contribute towards saving the environment by small interventions.

ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM

The Council has more than 1000 members, therefore E-voting is being provided on all resolutions (ordinary business and special business) to be carried at General Meeting, as per provision of Section 108 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Amendment Rules 2015.

Further, proxy voting is not permitted in the process of E-Voting/Remote-E voting because voting can be done by remote e-voting from any place other than the venue of a general meeting by using the unique "user name" and "password" that is being provided separately to each of the voting members by the agency conducting the voting electronically.

Council has provided the facility of Remote E Voting through M/s. NSDL to its members for casting their vote for all resolutions. Further, tablet based voting, through M/s. NSDL, is also provided to those members who are present in person, but had not casted their vote through Remote E-Voting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my sincere gratitude to Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles for wholeheartedly support for various recommendations of the Council and encouraging the garment export industry to perform better. I convey my heart-felt gratitude to Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance, GoI, for her continued support the industry.



I place on record, my sincere thanks to Secretary (Textiles) Shri Ravi Capoor, IAS, who helped and contributed in all projects, to address the concern of Apparel Industry, in the best possible manner. The Executive Committee of AEPC, therefore, places on record its sincere gratitude towards them.

It is pertinent to mention that Shri Ajay Tamta, the then Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles, Shri Rabindra Panwar, IAS, the then Secretary (Textiles), Shri Raghvendra Singh, IAS, the then Secretary (Textiles) and Smt. Jaya Dubey, the then Joint Secretary (Textiles) MoT and Secretary General, AEPC, who helped in continuous support in the furtherance of garment exports from India.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Smt. Aditi Das Rout, Trade Advisor, Ministry of Textiles, for the guidance extended to us in the matter of export promotion and other policy related issues from time to time.

I am also grateful to the officers of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Finance, Office of The Textile Commissioner, Textiles Committee, Ministry of Labour, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and other officers of Government of India for their cooperation in various export promotion activities and initiatives of the Council. I wish to express my thankfulness to Shri G.K.Pillai, Chairperson, Drawback committee, MoF. My heartfelt thanks to all Executive Committee Members of the Council for their guidance and support.

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With gratitude, I acknowledge the dedicated efforts put-in by all members of the Council. I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the members for their utmost faith and trust reposed in me and the Council. I am sure, with sustained efforts, we will be able to scale even greater heights of success in the years to come.

Best Wishes!

H.K.L Magu
Chairman, AEPC

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