

Social Awareness and Voluntary Education (SAVE)

SAVE is a Non Profit, Non Governmental and Civil Society organization promoted with the vision of achieving a child labor free society. Ever since the organization has been endeavoring to achieve the same and every initiative of SAVE has been towards this direction. The organization works holistically to promote the rights of children, labourers, women and vulnerable communities.

The same is achieved through different strategies like formation of community structures, awareness education, capacity building, facilitating to improve the livelihood of vulnerable communities, networking, campaign and advocacy and lobbying.

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TIRUPUR UPDATE: NEWSLETTER OF SAVE

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TEXTILE

**Moratorium on loan repayment sought
The New Indian Express, April 19, 2011
Tirupur**

The Tirupur Exporters Association (TEA) has appealed to the center to announce an one year moratorium on loan repayment.

In memorandum to Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, TEA said: “The garment sector is reeling under the crises due to the closure of dyeing units. It will take time to overcome this crisis. Hence Tirupur should be considered as a special case.”

He requested the Finance Minister to advise Reserve bank of India to waive the interest during the moratorium period also. “The Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in Tirupur have actually invested a total of Rs. 1200 crore for achieving zero liquid discharge. Unfortunately, it was not able to achieve the zero liquid discharge due to the technical failure

in the machinery. Meanwhile, the Madras High Court has ordered the closure of all the dyeing and bleaching units in Tirupur,” he noted.

The HC also dismissed a writ petition filed asking for an extension of nine months to rectify the technical issue. Over one lakh people have lost their jobs due to the closure of dyeing units. “ If the same situation continues, another five lakh people employed with knitwear sector units, allied sectors and service sectors including spinning mills will be affected apart from the export business to the tune of Rs 12,000 crore per annum. Centers should take necessary steps and allow a moratorium period for the repayment,” he pleaded.

Knitwear Industry Still in Doldrums
The new Indian Express, April 20, 2011
Tirupur

There is no sign yet of the knit city pulling out of the doldrums, say industry associations.

The knitwear production has come down drastically and the job loss is also gradually increasing, when the garment manufacturers finding it difficult to get the fabrics dyed from other areas and states. Following the closure of all the dyeing and washing units in Tirupur, the knitwear manufacturers have started to approach the other dyeing sectors in Perundurai in Erode district, Gujarat, Kolkata and Mumbai to get the fabrics dyed. However, the production has come down to nearly 60 per cent and it also consumes more time to deliver the orders.

The Tirupur Exporters and Manufacturers Association, president M.P .Muthurathinam said, “Despite the processing charge at dyeing sector in other states is low, compared to the local processing, the transport cost and more time consumption becomes a setback for delivering the garments on fixed time” According to him, the garments units used to get the dyed clothes from the local dyeing units within 7 to 10 days, but, now it takes nearly a month to get the dyed clothes from other states.

“Besides, the transport cost has also increased the production cost. Hence, we have reduced taking more orders and extended the delivery period to three months from the usual two months. All these led to the decrease in the production to 60 per cent in most of the units,” he said.

Commenting on the issue, the South Indian Hosiery Manufacturers Association (SIHMA) president A C Eswaran said, “ For the past two years we have restricted accepting new orders, due to the perennial problems of the industry. We expect the formation of new government in the state and the further action of the Central government on the issue to revive the industry.”

SISMA, a general secretary K S Babuji said, “Many small level units closed down over the crisis following the closure of the dyeing units. We are spending nearly Rs. 15 per kg of fabric for the dyeing process from other states.”

SIMA seeks steps to curb power shortage impact on industries
The Hindu, April 23, 2011
Coimbatore

The Southern India Mills’ association (SIMA) has appealed to the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) to fix a period for the restriction and control (R&D) measures that is imposed on industries in the State for power consumption.

In a memorandum to the corporation, the association has said that restriction and control measures were imposed on the industries on November 1, 2008 and even now there was no indication of a solution to the power shortage problem in the State. The total energy demand in the State was increasing by nearly 1,300 MW every year.

In an effort to reduce the impact of the power shortage on High Tension (HT) consumers, the association suggested that there should be no discrimination in distributing the power shortage in the State. All industries in Special Economic Zones, multinational companies and Chennai region should be brought under the restriction and control measures. Similarly, the Low tension Current Transformers should also have restriction on power consumption.

The TANGEDCO should approach the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission (TNERC) for guidelines to revise the R & c measures. The power cut, which was 30 percent for HT consumers now, could be increased based on the shortage to avoid frequent unscheduled power disruption.

Rehabilitate power: The board should source reliability power on a long term basis for evening peak hours and other hours. The grid connectivity should be strengthened on a war-footing.

The industrial, agricultural and domestic feeders should be segregated.

Dyers' declaration creates ripple
The New Indian express, April 24, 2011
Tirupur

Since the dyeing units declared in the past in their representations to the government that the zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) cannot be achieved in the effluent treatment plants, the recent increase in number of applications by the dyers with the claim to have complied with ZLD at their treatment plants has raised many an eyebrow.

It is to be noted that 20 CETPs, connected to nearly 750 dyeing and washing units and 146 IETPs were closed down the following the court order on January 28, 2011, when they failed to comply with the norms of achieving ZLD.

The court order also directed that the dyeing units should be opened only after getting the certification of monitoring committee for complying with the norms.

Meanwhile, in the joint representation of the all garment associations (TEA,SIHMA, DAT, TEKMA, KNITcMA, TIF, TEKPA, SIMKA, CEO) led by Tirupur Exporters Association on April , 2 ,2011, it was told that the ZLD was not possible, when no technology available in the globe.

They also demanded the central and state governments to implement the Marine discharge Project to discharge the treated effluents into the sea as a permanent solution for the problem. The affidavit filed in the High court by the joint committee for seeking nine months relaxation on the order was rejected by the court.

In contrary, the number of dyeing units, which are applying to the Tamil Nadu Polluting Control Board (TNPCB) with the claim to have achieved the ZLD, has increased recently. According to district Environmental Engineer, TNPCB, Kannan, 62 IETPs and two CETP,s(Arulpuram and Rayapuram) have applied till now with the claim to have achieved ZLD.

He said, “Of these, the monitoring committee gave permission for two IETPs named Classic and Poppys. The inspection at the 55 IETPs were completed and certification yet to be issued.”

In the mean time, the Dyers Association of Tirupur (DAT) has announced that all the CETPs will apply to TNPCB with assertion to achieve ZLD.

When asked about the contradictory claims, DAT secretary Krishnan, said, “The CETPs can work with the capacity of 30 to 40 percent for treating the effluents. The treatment plants can achieve 85 percent of recycling process and the remaining cannot be done due to inefficient evaporators and crystalisers.”

He also said,” As a step to reopen the dyeing sector again, the CETPs will apply to the TNPCB and if any suggestion is recommended by the committee to improve the system, the dyeing units will rectify the problems.”

A.P Kandhasamy, president of the Noyyal River Ayacuttadars Protection Association said that as the marine discharge project is not viable and has more practical difficulties to implement it, the dyers should go for complete recycling at their treatment plants itself. “ the farmers are happy to know that the dyeing units are ready to achieve the ZLD at the treatment plants and the farmers are expecting that the issue to be resolved smoothly, protecting both farm sector and industries.”

However, the farmers are skeptical on the move by the dyers, on whether they will fully comply with the norms to achieve ZLD or it would be a false promise like in the past.

Tirupur Exporters' Association hails scheme
The Hindu, April 30, 2011
Tirupur

The Tirupur Exporters' Association has welcomed the Union Government's announcement of Restructured Technology Up gradation Fund Scheme to help modernisation in industrial sectors.

Association president A. Sakthivel said the scheme that extends an overall subsidy of Rs. 1,972 crore till March 31, 2012, would enable those knitwear exporters who had been looking for capacity expansion.

Coverage:He also welcomed the continuance of coverage for foreign exchange rate fluctuation/forward cover premium not exceeding five percent for knitwear sector.

“This will be helpful for knitwear exporters since the fluctuation in foreign currencies had become frequent and abnormal during the recent days,” he said.

The TEA had thanked the Union Textiles Minister, Dayanithi Maran, for introducing fiscal measures that were aimed at improving sustainability of the exporters.

LABOUR TRADE UNION

Garment unit workers Stage Demo **The new Indian Express, April 19, 2011** **Tirupur**

The workers of a private garment manufacturing unit staged demonstration under the aegis of CITU demanding to reopen the unit, which was closed over the wage hike issue.

According to the protesters, the wage agreement between the workers and the authorities of Frontier Knitters expired in October 2010 and a new agreement for the next two years had to be signed, but the talks between the trade unions and the owners regarding this failed. Meanwhile, the unit was closed recently without any prior information to the workers. Condemning the closure of the unit, a large number of workers led by Jayaraman, CITU secretary of Palladam, staged demonstration at Thanneerpandal on Monday (18.4.2011) Jayaraman said, "When the talks with authorities of the garment unit failed to arrive at any consensus, the trade union issued notice for strike to urge the demand.

However, the authorities stopped the bus service for the workers and also announced to debit the two day wages from the workers. In the end they closed the unit without the knowledge of the workers."

He demanded to reopen the unit and the wage hike should be made available for all the workers. The trade union functionaries took part in the agitation insisted the authorities to come forward to find a solution on the issue immediately. C.Moorthy, general secretary of CITU Baniyan Workers Union and various trade union functionaries took part in the demonstration

ENVIRONMENT

'Eco-green industrial evaporator' developed **The Hindu, April 19, 2011** **Tirupur**

The NIFT-TEA College of Knitwear Fashion, promoted by textile exporters, demonstrated the functioning and benefits of the 'eco-green industrial evaporator' developed by its research team, for the benefit of dyers on Monday.

The development of eco-green industrial evaporator had now provided a ray of hope to the dyeing unit owners who were plagued by the operational problems arisen due to the failure in achieving zero liquid discharge in the effluent treatment process.

The gadget was designed to comprehensively treat the concentrated brine in the dyeing effluents and thereby attain the much-needed zero liquid discharge (ZLD) norms stipulated by the Madras High Court in the treatment of industrial effluents generated in the dyeing units. A team from Indian Institute of Technology-Madras had recently studied its functioning before issuing a prima facie report to the NIFT-TEA institute stating that the system was a feasible solution.

The treatment of brine was the main hurdle encountered by the dyeing unit owners owing to inherent structural flaws in the conventional mechanical evaporators being used in the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in the sector.

The failure in the attainment of ZLD using the conventional evaporators resulted in the closure of the entire dyeing units following a court order.

“The garments manufactured using the eco-green evaporator will help the entrepreneurs fetch value-addition since only green manufacturing practices alone were followed,” NIFT-TEA Institute chairman Raja Shanmugam explained.

Tirupur Exporters Association president A. Sakthivel had also lauded the gadget and stressed the need to quickly popularise it among the dyers. Around 300 dyeing unit owners attended the sensitisation programme.

DAT warning to Dyers
The New Indian Express, April 19,2011
Tirupur

The dyers’ Association of Tirupur (DAT) has warned the member-units of expulsion from the association, if any dyeing unit is found to be operating, defying the High Court Order.

Following the urgent meeting of the association, DAT general secretary, K. Krishnan said, “The member units of DAT should respect the court order and should not operate their units. If any such units operate against the court order and should not operate their units. If any such units operate against the court order, they would be expelled from DAT.” Meanwhile, he also warned that when the Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) takes action on such units for violation the court order, the DAT is to take responsibility on those issues.

Besides, the urgent meeting decided to apply for the TNPCB nod to operate the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), complying with the HC order. A resolution was also passed in the meeting demanding the New Tirupur Area Development Corporation Ltd(NTADCL) to not to collect the minimum charge from the dyeing units for water supply, as all the units are not in operation.

Effluents killing river Bhavani
The Hindu, April 21, 2011
Erode

River Bhavani in Erode district will soon go the River Noyyal way, or it seems. Textile processing units in the district which let out thousands of gallons of toxic effluents into River Bhavani are slowly killing it.

A number of small textile processing units have come up along the banks of the river after the dyeing units in Tirupur were closed following the Madras High court order.

“More than 50 units have been set up during the last few months and the most of these are located on the banks of the Bhavani and Cauvery rivers. These units are now serving the textile industry in Tirupur and damaging the environment in Erode”, farmers said.

Most of these units lack a proper system to treat effluents. The existing units too do not have not treatment facilities. As a result, these processing units store the chemical effluents in the

day and discharge them into the river in the night causing irrevisible damage to the ecosystem.

Apart from the dyeing units, other factories, including cardboard manufacturing units located in the upper reaches of River Bhavani, also release untreated waste water into the river.

“River Bhavani is the only source of water in the district which is less polluted. Now textile processing have begun to pollute it as well,” the farmer said.

Increase in the level of pollution in the river will severely affect the agriculture sector in the district forcing thousands of farmers to quit their profession.

“The future of thousands of acres of cultivable land is under serious threat,” they said.

Steps: The state government and its agencies, including Tamil Nadu Pollution control Board, have grossly failed to initiate any steps to prevent these units from polluting water sources.”Erode has now become a major hub for textile processing after the closure of dyeing units in Tirupur. Officials are yet to make any effort to stop the establishment of new units along the banks of Bhavani and Cauvery rivers,” the farmers complain.

“After the death of Noyyal, farmers who depended on it for water were forced to quit agriculture and went to work in textile units. The same might happen in Erode,” they fear.

Illegal dyeing units demolished

The Hindu, April 23, 2011

Erode

Over 30 dyeing units, which were found being operated illegally, were demolished and the machineries were dismantled during a massive drive launched by the district administration against the polluting industrial units in the district. It was the first time the authorities had taken the stringent action of demolishing the dyeing units, which were found letting out thousands of gallons of untreated toxic effluents in the River Cauvery.

“A majority of these units had originally functioned in Tirupur and shifted to Erode after the Madras high court ordered the closure of polluting textile units. Most of these units were found functioning under the makes shift structures,” a senior official, who supervised the drive.

The drive was launched following complaints from the public that a number of new units had come up along the banks of River Cauvery and Bhavani following the closure of units in Tirupur.

On the instruction of Erode Collector two teams led by the revenue department officer and environmental engineer conducted checks at various parts of Erode town and its suburbs. The team identified many unauthorized dyeing units during the check. The officials deployed earth movers to demolish the water tanks, storage facilities and other concrete structures in the units. Some of the units were found indulging in power theft as well.

“We informed the officials of the Tamil Nadu generation and distribution corporation, who made a spot assessment and slapped fine on the owners of the units,” officials said.

Meanwhile, the administration had also taken steps to initiate criminal action against the owners of the unauthorized dyeing units.”The units had also taken steps to initiate criminal action against the owners of the unauthorized dyeing units.”These units had caused serious

damage to environment. We will initiate stern action against the owners of the units after a detailed investigation,” revenue officials said.

The administration also planned to initiate action against the owners of the lands, on which the units were established.

“The drive will continue across the district in the coming days. All the unauthorized textile processing units will be demolished,” officials added.

124 dyeing units razed in Namakkal

The new Indian Express, April 27, 2011

SALEM/NAMAKKAL

Enforcing a directive of the Madras High Court and consequent orders of the government, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, on Tuesday, demolished as many as 139 dyeing units in Salem and Namakkal districts. Of 139 units, 124 units were demolished in Namakkal.

According to district environmental engineer of TNPCB, Gokuldas, “As many as 82 units were demolished in Pallipalayam and 42 units in Kumarapalayam areas on the second consecutive day on Tuesday. Also 30 tanks in various manual dyeing units were smashed in Pallipalayam and 81 tanks in Kumarapalayam. As many as 131 units were razed down on Monday.”

Tension prevailed at Kolathukaadu during the demolition as the manual unit owners objected to the move. The owners were engaged in heated arguments with the officials including District Revenue Officer Seethalakshmi, police said. The owners sought time to take up their case with the state government. However, the officials clarified that they could not permit the functioning of the units as they were being run without permission.

15 Units Razed Down in Salem

In Salem, 15 units that had mushroomed around Edappadi town here in recent months were pulled down. Edappadi is a major textile cluster in Salem district where low-end textile made-ups are produced for the domestic market. More than 15 highly-polluting dyeing units were shifted from Tirupur to Edappadi in the last two months. This shifting followed the TNPCB’s crackdown on polluting units in Tirupur.

According to TNPCB’s District Environmental Engineer A. Thanga Pandian, none of the units that were shifted from Tirupur took permission from the TNPCB to operate here.
