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LETTERS

Cotton yarn crisis

As usual, APTMA has given a misleading statement that the ban, or restrictive duty, on cotton yarn is against the WTO Rules. This is totally wrong. Recently, Bangladesh has banned the export of raw jute, so that only value-added jute products may be exported, to bring higher foreign exchange. Similarly, India has banned the export of cereal (dal) because the prices in the local market had gone up. Even Pakistan has banned the export of sugar and wheat so that the general public may not face any shortage of food grains.

The European Union asked the Bangladesh government to impart Pakistani value-added textile products without import duty.

Bangladesh straightforwardly rejected this proposal.

The WTO had asked the member countries to give MFN status to each other but, Pakistan has not given this status to India up till now. The WTO Rules do not interfere in the export and import policy of their member countries. These Rules are a sort of guidelines to member countries and therefore they have allowed their members to levy countervailing and anti dumping duties.

The APTMA has stated that they suffered losses for the last three years and they would recover their losses within one year. That is not fair. We would suggest that the Government make a lenient view for the export of man-made fibre which would help APTMA and in return, the spinners may be asked to accept the decision of banning

the export of coarse cotton yarn. The prices and shortage would result in huge losses to value-added products, as well as the big number of workers employed in this industry.

Karachi

Waqar Alam