

No specific steps taken for revival: minister

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Textile Industry Rana Muhammad Farooq Saeed Khan said that no specific steps have been taken for the revival of sick textile industry since July, 2009.

However, Cabinet approved the first ever Textile Policy (2009-2014) in August 2009, which contains numerous initiatives, which would lead to the revival of the sick textile industry, he maintained.

In a written reply to National Assembly, the minister stated that the textile policy entails short-term and long-term measures to enhance competitiveness of the sector.

While stating the detail of the policy, he said: The Ministry of Textile Industry is actively pursuing implementation of the Textile

Policy approved by the Federal Cabinet in August, 2009. In order to implement the major initiatives of the Policy, Textile Ministry has already issued notifications including, Drawback of Local Taxes and Levies Order 2009, Export Finance Mark-up Rate Facility Order 2009, Mark-up Rate Support for Textile Sector Order 2009 on September 1, 2009. In addition, Re-imburement of EOBI Contribution Order 2009 was issued on September 30, 2009. To refund the past claims of R&D support scheme as announced in the Textile Policy, State Bank of Pakistan has been directed accordingly. Directions have also been issued to the SBP to continue the monetisation of customs duty at PTA @ 7.5 percent during the current financial year. In order to zero-rate the import of

Textile Machinery as announced in Textile Policy 2009-14, FBR has issued SRO No. 809(1)/2009 dated 19-09-2009.

Regarding the implementation of other initiatives/interventions announced in the Textile Policy including Infrastructure & Skill Development etc, he said that modalities are being finalised. Ministry is also in the process of identifying the areas where such initiatives will benefit maximum to the scattered sub-sectors.

The Ministry of Water and Power and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources have also been approached to ensure continuous supply of power and gas to the textile sector. The initiatives announced by the Textile Ministry have been helpful in generating demand for the textile products at home and abroad.

1,332 sick units in country, NA told

Industrial policy by March

ISLAMABAD: Dr Ayatullah Durrani, Minister of State for Industries and Production, on Wednesday informed the National Assembly that the Industrial Policy would be announced by March for the revival of industries, and added that at present there were 1,332 sick industrial units in the country.

Giving details about the sick units during the question-hour, he said these units include 163 in the Punjab, 702 in the NWFP, 345 in Sindh and 122 in Balochistan.

He said the ministry through the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) took an initiative for the revival of sick industrial units.

He informed the House that in the NWFP, 10 sick industrial units had been re-

vived at a cost of Rs85 million and those were generating employment for more than 300 persons.

About 'One Skill, One Village' programme, the minister said that till now 9,135 skilled people had benefitted from this programme and now the government was planning to extend this programme to the union council level.

Ayatullah Durrani maintained that AHAN started its operations in 2007 and till now it had executed 46 projects all over the country.

He added that 6000 artisans had taken benefit through these projects indirectly and about 26 percent had become independent entrepreneurs introducing their products at local and international levels. —APP

Corrodate

4/27/10

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