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# TMAP seeks incentives for survival

KARACHI: An emergency meeting of the towel and bedwear exporters was held at the office of the Towel Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (TMAP) to discuss the crisis facing the home textile industry, says a press release.

Over 500 towel looms have been scrapped and more are being scrapped as the factories are being closed down due to the increase in cost of raw materials, electricity and wages being high, and the research and development facility being withdrawn.

They urged the government to immediately take following actions:

- (i) Export of raw cotton and all raw material to competing countries should be discouraged, (ii) The R&D support should not be available on exports to competing countries, and (iii) The R&D to be given for the actual cost of inputs and taxes which are around 15 percent.

It is sad that the government is not setting the priorities right and supporting hedge funds instead of the industry is giving employment and earning the much needed foreign exchange. Twenty billion rupees was given to the stock market which hardly provides any employment while the total amount of R&D given to the home textile sector was under Rs 9 billion. China has recently given 15 percent duty drawback and many other facilities while we are being ignored and machines are being scrapped.—PR

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# Towel industry in crisis

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, Aug 6: A large number of towel units have been closed thereby rendering around 500 looms out of production.

This was stated by Towel Manufacturers' Association (TMA) chairman Syed Usman Ali at a meeting here on Tuesday.

He said that the increased cost of raw material, electricity and wages had made the industry sick and many units were closed down across the country.

He said that the government was not setting its priorities and instead of supporting industry, which provides employment and also earns foreign exchange, speculative businesses like trading in stocks are being provided with funds.

The TMA chief disclosed that recently China allowed 15 per cent duty drawback and many other facilities to the textile exporters whereas "our government is yet to fix its priorities".