

Govt help sought in resolution of industry-EOBI row

RECORDER REPORT

KARACHI: All seven industrial associations of the city have sought the government intervention to help resolve the dispute between the industrialists and Employees Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI).

The demand was made during an emergency meeting of all seven industrial associations of the city, held at Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (Kati) on Tuesday, to decide their future line of action in view of the attitude of EOBI officials.

The chairmen and representatives of the industrial associations demanded of the Chairman EOBI Zafar Iqbal Gondal to take appropriate

measures and control the EOBI officials, otherwise, they warned that all the associations would announce their strategy through a joint press conference soon.

The meeting expressed concern over the uncivilised behaviour of the EOBI officials with the industrialists. The meeting alleged that the EOBI officials were constantly harassing and threatening to seal the factories if their demands were not met.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Kati Ehtesham Uddin said that no government functionary would be allowed to harass the industrialists.

He said that the industrialists had always abide by the rules and regulations and would not

allow the EOBI officials to violate the industrial peace.

He said that before taking any extreme step, the industrial representatives would approach all the power corridors to resolve the matter amicably.

The meeting was attended by former Chairman Kati Mian Zahid Hussain, Chairman Site Association of Industry Irfan Moton, Chairman North Karachi Association Abdul Rasheed Fodderwala, Chairman F B Area Association Masroor Ahmed Alvi, Chairman Landhi Association Zaid Basheer, besides representatives of Bin Qasim Association Abdur Rehman Ismail and Site Superhighway Association Faisal Moeen Qureshi.



Business Recorder

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Textile sector opposes govt depts' visits

RECORDER REPORT

FAISALABAD: After lifting of ban on raids on industrial units in the wake of Kharak disaster at Lahore, EOBI, Social Security and Labour Department have started visiting factories and mills in Faisalabad resulting in panic and harassment among the business community.

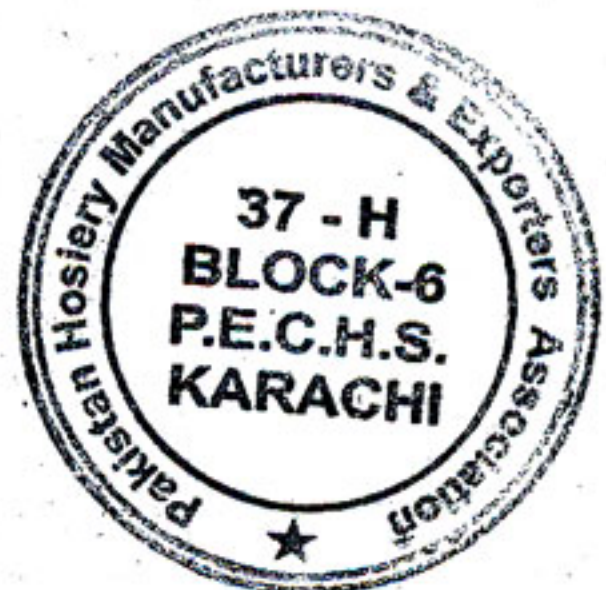
In an emergent meeting of textile associations of the city comprising of Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA), Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association, All Pakistan Bedsheet and Upholstery Manufacturers Association, All Pakistan Cotton Power Looms Association, Small Power Loom Association, Council of Loom Owners, Pakistan Embroidery Association and All Pakistan Textile Sizing Association under the Chairmanship of Rana Arif Tauseef deliberated the situation and decided to offer stiff resistance against attempt to disrupt industrial peace, productivity and manufacturing process.

The meeting was attended by Qamar Aftab, Vice Chairman PHMA, Imran Mahmood, Vice Chairman APBUMA, Khalid Mahmood Cheema, Chairman APCL and President Mian Muhammad Asghar, Waheed Khaliq Raamay, Chairman CLO, Mian Nadeem Puri, Chairman PEA, Mirza Muhammad Shafiq, former Chairman APTSA and representatives of textile sector asserted that the economy of the country was already tottering. The textile exports were steeply declining and have gone down a billion dollars in first half of the fiscal and likely to fall by 3 billion dollars by the end of current fiscal.

Representatives of all textile associations strongly opposed the EOBI, Social Security and Labour Department visits and said that both federal and provincial governments had stopped unnecessary inspection of industrial units in 2003 for smooth production process but the officials of these departments have started to visit industrial units for inspection of records and pressurizing the industrialist to pay extra taxes to complete their tax revenue targets.

They said that such negative measures would not only disturb whole textile chain but also hamper the textile exports. They said that all such negative measures were adding fuel to the fire rendering millions of workers jobless.

PTEA chairman demanded of the government to create business friendly policies for better and prosperous Pakistan.



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GAS SUPPLY CLOSURE EVERY SUNDAY **INDUSTRIAL AND CAPTIVE POWER**

Increased winter gas load has resulted in persistently low pressure situation which has adversely affected the overall gas supply in Sindh.

All industrial and captive power customers are, therefore, required to discontinue gas usage on every Sunday from 7:00 am, till Monday 7:00 am, till further notice.

SSGC's surveillance teams will be monitoring compliance and have been fully authorized to disconnect gas supply for 48 hours of any customer found violating the above schedule.

SSGC appreciates the cooperation of the industrial and captive power sector and believes that this closure will enable supply of stable pressure during the rest of the week.



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