

Exporters resent delay in DLT payment

By Parvaiz Ishfaq Rana

KARACHI, April 16: Exporters have complained that millions of rupees are stuck up against drawback on local taxes and levies (DLTL) despite the fact that the issue was raised with the Ministry of Textile Industry on several occasions and an understanding was also reached.

A large number of cases are still pending with the State Bank of Pakistan on different objections but during meetings with the Ministry of Textile Industry most of the objections were sorted out, stated chairman, Pakistan Apparel Forum (PAF), Jawed Bilwani.

He further stated that the delay in clearance of DLT was causing hardships for exporters who are already facing liquidity crunch owing to a host of factors, including frequent increase in POL and power tariffs.

Mr Bilwani said that in a meeting with the Ministry of Textile Industry early this year, it transpired that only those cases would be declared time barred which were submitted after 90 days.

Similarly, it was also decided that in such cases where there were objections claims were required to be submitted within 30 days of the date of objection. These issues were taken up by exporters with the ministry on several occasions but the outcome was the same.

However, so far no development has taken place and export trade continues to suffer, he added. SITE Association Superhighway Chairman Mehtab Chawala said repeated commitment by the textile ministry over such issues should have cleared way for payment of DLT but so far no development has taken place.

He said that only those cases would be declared time-barred which were submitted after 90 days and all those cases submitted within 90 days would be eligible for getting DLT.

Mr Chawala said it was also decided that in case of objection if exporter gets the objection cleared within 30 days,

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there would be no problem and the claim would not be considered time-barred.

He further said that exporters have to suffer only because their banks forwarded their DLT claims to State Bank without informing them about objections in their claim documents.

As a result of this, Mr Chawala said these cases became time-barred.

When exporters approached the SBP regarding their DLT claims, he said, they were informed that their cases could not be qualified for payment because they have become time barred.

All such issues were taken up with the Ministry of Textile Industry for more than once and each time it was resolved that all such cases which were declared time barred by the SBP would qualify for payment of DLT once exporters removed objections.

