

Sector opposes plan to abolish textile ministry

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The value added textile sector has opposed a proposal to abolish the ministry of textiles and merge it with the ministry of commerce.

In a letter to PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif, the value added textile sector mentioned that the ministry of textile was established on the demand of the value added textile export sector and that its establishment boosted textile exports. The letter conceded that there were problems later as the policy was not implemented.

Javed Bilwani of Value Added Textile Sector said that textile sector is the backbone

of the country's economy, accounting for 50 percent of total exports and generating 42 percent of total employment.

"We are confident that under your revolutionary and magnanimous PML-N government, the textiles with the right minister and capable secretaries will flourish and so will our exports," said the letter. "We are also confident that if the Ministry of Textile Industry runs successfully, our exports can increase up to \$50 billion. Moreover the load on the commerce ministry will decrease and it can pay attention to other sectors," it added. Significantly, Bilwani said that in India, a ministry of

textiles governs the cotton and jute industry, wool and woolen sector, manmade fiber, filament yarn, technical textiles, clothing and textile exports, textiles, research and development.

Similarly, Bangladesh also has a ministry of textiles and the country's textile exports make up 83 percent of its total exports.

"Although Indian textile exports stand at 8.92 percent, they still have a vibrant ministry of textiles. Ironically, in case of Pakistan, whose textile exports are 52.27 percent of the country's total exports, the existing ministry of textile industry is going to be abolished," he said.



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Textile and commerce ministries

PHMEA concerned over proposed merger

RECORDER REPORT

KARACHI: The apparel textile sector has raised concerns over the proposed merger of textile ministry with commerce ministry, saying the move is "alarming" for the ailing industry.

Last week, Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMEA) Central Chairman Javed Bilwani highlighted the industry's concerns in a letter to PML-N chief and prime minister in waiting Nawaz Sharif.

In his letter, citing information about merger of the two key ministries, Bilwani termed the proposed merger "alarming".

He said that the textile ministry was established on the

demand of value-added textile sector, which helped the country's textile exports flourish.

"If textile ministry is run successfully the country's export can grow up to \$50 billion," the letter said emphasising that retaining of the ministry would reduce commerce ministry's burden and help the latter pay full attention to other export-oriented sectors.

Giving example of India, Bilwani said the country had a full-fledged ministry of textile which looked after cotton, jute, sericulture industry, wool and woollen sector, manmade fibre/filament yarn, technical textiles, clothing and textile exports, education (textiles/fashion), research and development.

"Indian textile exports account for only 8.92 percent of the country's total exports but it has maintained the ministry whereas Pakistan with 53.27 percent of textile exports is considering merging the key ministry," the letter said.

Similarly, Bilwani said, Pakistan's key competitor, Bangladesh, had also a textile ministry to manage its exports.

He further said that apparel textile sector was the backbone and lifeline of the country's economy with about 50 percent of total exports and generating 42 percent of the total employment.

He asked the next premier to reconsider the decision of merging the two ministries.

