

Ref : C-2 / 74 / 20

8th July 2020

Shri Aslam Shaikh
Hon'ble Minister of Textile, Fisheries & Port Development
Government of Maharashtra,
Mantralaya
Mumbai.

Respected Sir,

The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), is India's oldest and largest Association representing the Domestic Garment Industry of India. Established in 1963, we have close to 4,000 Manufacturers as our members, and service over 20,000 Retailers through our various activities. Our headquarters are in Mumbai.

On behalf of the Garment Industry of Maharashtra, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout the ongoing COVID crisis. During this period, we have been able to work closely with Government of Maharashtra and BMC to resolve key issues related to essential goods as the crisis unfolded. We value the support state Government provided and are grateful for taking up the cause of the industry and the state . We look forward to our continued collaboration to ensure the industry and the state are able chart a path to business continuity and economic recovery.

However, we would like to bring to your notice an anomaly which seems to have escaped the attention of your Government.

As you are aware, considering all the merits and demerits of the various health and safety measures, the Maharashtra Government has gradually opened up most of the economic activities, including Offices, Shops (High Street), BEST buses, Courier services, Online deliveries, and even some Trains. We are now in the process of opening up Hotels and Restaurants.

However, for some reason, Garment Factories in the regions of Mumbai and Thane districts are still not permitted to function, except to produce Masks and other Protective gear.

Sir, Textile and Garment manufacturing has been the backbone of Mumbai's economic progress as well as its history and culture. Over 90% of Garment Factories are in the MSME sector – especially in the major centres such as Mumbai and Thane district. Lakhs of families depend on these small factories for their livelihood.

Of the 18,000 Garment Factories in Maharashtra, we estimate not less than 10,000 factories to be located in Mumbai and surrounding areas, - employing close to 7,00,000 workers, a large number of them women and unskilled or semi-skilled workers.

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THE CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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Whilst we as an Industry have fully supported the Government in its objective of giving health a priority over economics, we are unable to understand why even after almost all other spheres of economic activity have been opened up, Garment Factories are still not permitted.

OFFICES ARE OPEN, SHOPS ARE OPEN, ONLINE DELIVERIES ARE PERMITTED, HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS WILL OPEN. THEN WHY NOT FACTORIES?

The Garment Industry is spread all over the Country – Punjab, Delhi, UP, Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka etc. - just to name a few important centres of production. and it is important to record that Garment Factories have been permitted to open and are functioning in almost all centres except Mumbai.

Garment Industry is not particularly restricted by locational or climatic conditions, and is easily capable of relocation.

Sir, it our fear that if this trend of factories being permitted to function all over the country but not permitted in Mumbai continues, a major portion of our Industry may shift out of Mumbai – leaving lakhs of people staring at unemployment.

Sir, as the Guardian Minister of Mumbai as well as the Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, CMAI urges you to urgently review the decision of your Government and permit the opening up of our Factories in Mumbai and MMR regions – with due compliance of the restrictions and Health directives of the Government.

This will give a huge boost to our Government's Mission Begin Again Program.

In this connection, we are sharing with you a comprehensive set of SOPs prepared by our Association CMAI, which our members in other regions are adopting. We trust you will find them coming up to the Government's standards.

We hope you will consider our submission and support the industry to recover from the disastrous consequences of the COVID crisis.

With Warm Regards,

Yours Sincerely,



Rakesh Biyani
President

Encl : As stated above

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