

**Shri Uddhav Thackeray**  
**Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra**  
Govt 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 solve for key issues related to essential goods as the crisis had 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.

In the current phase of lockdown, you have imposed various restrictions on the Manufacturing Sector in the State, with the exception of Exports and Essential services.

Sir, we appreciate the priority given to the Export Sector, keeping in mind the Nation's prestige, reputation, and reliability in the Global Community. In fact many of our members are Exporters too.

However, we strongly believe that the Indian Consumer, Indian Entrepreneurs, and the Indian Business Community cannot be ignored and left in the lurch. The Indian Consumer forms the backbone of our Economy, and it would be patently unfair to deprive her of the availability of products that are needed for her day to day requirements.

Indian children continue to grow and develop and require bigger size clothing. Weddings continue to take place. Ladies continue to require Maternity clothing and Mothers continue to need clothing for their new-born babies. Where do all these clothes come from if we keep our Domestic Factories closed?

Sir, since you have permitted Export oriented units to operate fully, we would strongly urge that Garment Factories manufacturing for the Domestic Markets are also permitted to Operate with at least a ceiling of 50% of the Labour force.

Similarly, keeping in mind the structure of Garment business in Maharashtra, it may be requested to permit Wholesalers to keep their offices open with 25% to 50% staff attendance. We draw your attention to the fact that Wholesalers do not interact directly with Consumers and hence the risks posed by large crowds of consumers congregating would not arise.

**THE CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA**

901, Naman Midtown, 'A' Wing, Behind Kamgar Kala Kendra, Senapati Bapat Marg, Prabhadevi (West),  
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These moves will not only provide succour to the workers of the factories and their families, but will also allow businesses to survive at a minimum level at least. But most importantly, it will fulfil the needs of the Indian Consumer.

It would be pertinent to point out that many State Governments, including some of our neighbouring ones, have followed the same strategy of permitting Garment Factories to operate but with 50% work force.

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.

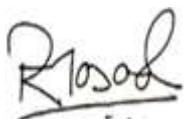
Whilst nearly half of the work force consists of migrant workers, the rest are the youth from local population. It should be noted here that the Garment Industry largely gives Employment to the semi-skilled and unskilled workers, and is one of the largest employers of Women. The livelihood of lakhs of such workers depends on these Factories being operational. We fear that already close to 20% of jobs, mainly those held by migrant labour, have been lost. Continued closure of Factories may lead to further job losses affecting the local as well as migrant population.

It would also be important to mention here that the Garment Industry is spread over several regions in the Country. If we do not open up in Mumbai and Thane quickly, there is a real danger of our State losing its position of pre-eminence, and the industry shifting to other States.

In this connection, although we had shared it earlier, 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.

With warm regards,

Yours Sincerely,



**Rajesh Masand**  
**President**

Encl : As stated above

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