



HON'BLE MINISTER FOR
KHADI
GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

THIRU.K.RAMACHANDRAN
DELIVERED AT THE MEETING OF
NATIONAL KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD
CONVENED BY
NATIONAL KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD
(GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF MSME)
ON
16.7.2008

HALL NO 4
VIGYAN BHAWAN
AT NEW DELHI

**Honourable Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises,
Officer and Colleagues**

It is indeed a pleasure to participate in this meeting and address this august gathering.

'Khadi' a symbol of simplicity, has a history of its own intertwined with the history of our country. Khadi Industry, which was once flourishing with support from different strata of the society, is slowly losing its prominence in the market place due to the preference towards other textile varieties. In this process, Khadi and Village Industries, which is dominated by the poor and downtrodden, is losing its eminence. In Tamilnadu, the Government functioning under the egalitarian leadership of our **Honourable Chief Minister Dr.Kalaignar**, is always inclined towards the poor and downtrodden and our Government is pursuing every initiative aimed at benefiting the rural poor. Under the able guidance of our Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, we are engaged in reviving the Khadi Industries through Tamilnadu Khadi and Village Industries Board ensuring adequate employment to the public living below poverty line. It is a fitting tribute to our efforts that the Government of India have allotted the Sular Cluster to Tamilnadu Khadi and Village Industries Board under SFRUTI Scheme. Here, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Honourable Minister for having considered the request of Government of Tamilnadu and entrusted this cluster to the Board.

In this meeting which has been convened for an interaction on the possible improvements to the Khadi Industries, I would like to place certain views for discussion and consideration for the welfare of the Khadi and Village Industries.

Most of the spinners involved in the khadi industry are womenfolk in the age group of 50 and above. The present level of wage earned by them is insufficient. I would suggest that the wage of the spinners be brought on par with the minimum wage fixed under NREGP in each state, ensuring better livelihood to the spinners.

Health related benefits intended for the persons involved in the Khadi Industry needs to be reviewed frequently. Khadi and Village Industries Commission has introduced a Group Insurance Scheme namely 'Janashree Bhima Yojana'. It would be beneficial to more number of spinners and weavers to introduce a Health Package Plan (Lombard Scheme) similar to the scheme existing on the handloom sector and the Commission may consider this.

At present, Khadi and Village Industries Commission is implementing PRODIP scheme for the improvements in design and readywear items. To keep track with the changing styles, it would be essential to improve the basic structure of the textile and the Commission may consider obtaining expert knowledge for the upgradation and improvements.

So far, I have placed the general issues that can be sorted out through discussions and by consideration by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Now, permit me to express certain problems related to Tamilnadu specifically and seek necessary assistance from the Commission.

In Tamilnadu, there is no stock point for the supply of sliver and the Tamilnadu Khadi and Village Industries Board and certified institutions have to depend on neighbouring states for the supply of

sliver. This results in considerable expenditure towards transport and needs to be avoided. I would request the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to open a stock point for sliver in Tamilnadu and allow subsidies for the supply of sliver.

Beekeeping is one of the major activity in Kanyakumari District of Tamilnadu. The Tamilnadu Khadi and Village Industries Board had already submitted a proposal for an amount of Rs.60 lakhs for Beekeeping at Marthandam of Kanyakumari District. I would request the Commission to consider and clear this long pending proposal and provide employment opportunities to the rural public.

Palmgur Industry has been assigned due importance in our State and a separate Board has been formed by the Tamilnadu Government for the development of palm products. I would like to point out that Tamilnadu is the State having highest number of palm trees. In spite of the efforts put forth by the Government, the institutions run under Palmgur Industry have become sick and needs assistance for the revival. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission may consider a special package for the revival of the Palmgur Industry in Tamilnadu in addition to motivating the Railways to enlist palm products like Neera, Palm Chocolate and Palm Candy for marketing in the Railway Stations.

The Khadi and Village Industries are not functioning healthily and the Government of Tamilnadu, with an intention to improve the status of khadi and village Industries, has directed the Khadi and Village Industries Board to initiate suitable steps to reduce the loss incurred by the industries. The Government has also issued orders providing purchase preference to the Khadi Board products with an intention to

increase the overall turnover. Nevertheless, the Khadi and Village Industries Board is in need of working capital and the Khadi and Village Industries Commission may consider providing necessary assistance by way of grant to the Khadi and Village Industries Board of Tamilnadu ensuring continued performance of the activities.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has sanctioned loan under Agreed Programme upto the year 1995. The Commission may take into account that the beneficiaries are belonging to the category of 'very poor' and do not have the capacity to hold on to the recovery. As a result, the recovery has not been encouraging and on this ground, I request the Commission to consider waiving the loan sanctioned under Agreed Programme.

I am sure that the views and requests expressed by me will be accepted considering on the broader perspective of improving the sagging morale of the Khadi and Village Industry and the Commission will react positively.

With this, I am concluding my address and I express my thanks to all for having given me this opportunity to address before this forum.

**K.RAMACHANDRAN
MINISTER / CHAIRMAN FOR
TAMILNADU KHADI AND
VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD**

வெளியீடு, இயக்குநர்.
செய்தி, மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை.
தலைமைச் செயலகம், சென்னை-9