R&D support improved textiles quality, but efficiency remains low

Pakistani textile sector's efficiency remains low in the region despite Rs. 20 billion annual Research and Development (R&D) support by the government. The R&D facility was withdrawn in financial year 2008-09, but the support could not achieve its goals set earlier. The R&D support covered product development, skill development and training, upgrading of information technology and professional consultancy.

In 2005, the government decided to provide Research and Development (R&D) support to units manufacturing and exporting textile garments at the rate of 6% of the value of the exports to EU and USA. In June last year, the government decided to withdraw this support. The R&D support was given to the sector under agreement in the WTO regime that required high standard of Pakistani goods. It was given 6 per cent on the value of export to the US and European Union on garments and 3% on fabric export. The R&D support of Rs. 12 billion was given to textile garments, Rs. 8 billion on home textile bed linen and Rs. 0.7 billion on denim.

Dr Mirza Ikthiar Baig, Advisor to Federal government on textile industry, said the R&D support was made available for research and to some extent to cut down high cost of doing business, which had increased over the years due to increase in bank mark ups, utility bills and raw material. Pakistan's regional competitors Bangladesh, India and China are providing R&D to their industry leaving Pakistan a lead of around 15% in the cost of doing business. After R&D support, quality of Pakistan's products has improved, but efficiency remains low. Quality is not issue, efficiency is low - waste percentage has increased, said Dr Baig.

He said labour productivity was very low in Pakistan. Our regional competitors took 75 minutes to complete and produce one piece whereas we took 133 minutes for the same work and we also waste 30% in finishing and 12% in washing."

The countries with more support from their governments have been able to give tough time to their competitors. China topped the US market with a share of 36% followed by Bangladesh 21%, India 18%, Morocco 19%, and Pakistan 13%. Korea, on the other hand, lost 20% USA market share. Similarly, in the European market, China topped to gain 29% with Vietnam 28%, India 19% and Pakistan only 1.5% whereas Philippines lost 11%.

People in the textile industry say that it was passing through the worst times especially after withdrawal of R&D support. At least 30 percent Textile and made-up industry has faced closure leaving behind a large number of workers jobless. 90 percent of industry is already operating in one shift instead of three shifts previously.

Textile industry demands rescheduling of loans

A new textile policy for a five-year period is being framed incorporating the measures for resolving the prevailing textile crisis but also comprehensive and advanced schemes for all textile sectors from cotton growing to value-added exports. This was disclosed by the Federal Minister for Textile Industry Rana Farooq Saeed Khan while addressing a seminar on "National Strategy for Textile Industry: issues and recommendations" at Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) Auditorium.

He said that the government was fully aware of the problems and importance of the textile industry and government realised that textile sector was the biggest source of foreign exchange earning and also a major source of employment in the country.

He expressed the hope that after completion of the consultation process, a comprehensive textile policy would be finalised on priority basis wherein the interests of all textile sectors would be protected. PTEA Chairman Muhammad Yousaf demanded reduction in rate of bank mark-up, uninterrupted supply of electricity and gas to industry, reduction in cost of production, market access to developed countries, zero-rating of exports and level playing field as compared with other competing countries.

EU antidumping duty on bed-linen removed

The European Union (EU)'s anti-dumping duty on bedlinen import from Pakistan expired on 5th March 2009 allowing bedlinen exports to EU member countries on normal duty structures. The EU's economic journal notified the expiry of this duty after it received no request for reviewing it from the member states in the stipulated time period. According to the EC policy if a written request for review is not received the anti-dumping measures will automatically expire on the next review date. The Pakistani bedlinen products were subjected to 5.8 percent anti-dumping duty along with the normal custom duty, which made the products costly compared to its competitors like India and China, which grabbed the major share of Pakistan's export.

Pakistan lost $250 to $300 million annually in bedlinen export due to this duty and its benefit went to China and India and by some extent to Indonesia during this period. EU slapped an anti-dumping duty of 13.1 percent in early 2004, but following the protest of Pakistani exporters, the European Commission immediately announced a partial review. European Community rules to deal with dumping date back to the organisation's earliest days. They are targeted at dumped imports, which cause significant injury to Community producers. If left unchallenged, dumping gives the third country exporter an unfair competitive advantage, which could be exploited with considerable negative consequences for the Community industry.

In the 1st closure of the review, the duty was brought down to 9.9 percent, which was further cut down to 7.6 percent in second review. While in May 2006, the EC further brought it down to 5.8 percent. Textile exporters hailing the latest development for the bedwear industry of the country said that it would help this sector to make up the losses, which it incurred after undergoing this punitive duty five years back. Industry leaders welcomed this move and said that an up hill task lies in front to regain the market share lost due to the antidumping duty in the last five years.A spokesperson of Pakistan High Commission expressed happiness over the development and said this will make exports of Pakistan made bed linen even more competitive. "At the same time variable anti-dumping duty on exports of bed linen to EU for different textile companies of Pakistan has also expired," the spokesperson added.

It is pertinent to mention here that imports from Pakistan into the European Union have already benefited from the current GSP Scheme of European Union where Pakistani products are subjected to 80% MFN tariff on textile goods, while 20% concessions are allowed. The spokesperson also pointed that the removal of 5.8% anti-dumping duty would provide a welcome opportunity of market access and business for the traders importing cotton type bed linen from Pakistan as well as ensuring equitable profit.

Dr Baig hails mark-up subsidy extension

Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Chairman of Banking, Credit and Finance FPCCI hailed the government decision to increase the period of 3% mark-up subsidy to spinning sector from one year to two years. The SBP had allowed subsidy claims for the long-term loans taken between Ist January 03 to 30th June 07 for one year which has now been extended to two years i.e. 1st July 07 to 30th June 09.

Dr Baig said the government support will have a positive effect on the textile industry keeping in view the present crisis. Companies which could not settle their overdue installments can also file claims separately for the 3% subsidy in March 09 provided the companies have not reported as defaulting by banks and DFIs.

Pak share in world cotton output falls

Pakistan's share in world cotton production has dropped by 10% since 2004, making it an importer while India has boosted its cotton output by 25% to become a leading exporter of the commodity.

Data received from the United States Development Agency reveal Pakistan continued to boost its share in world cotton production for three decades, increasing it from 4.8% during 1970-74 to 8.8% in 2000-03. Its growth in cotton crop was much higher than that of India during these three decades as Delhi, which produced 8.5% of global cotton, could enhance its share to only 11.6%.

Agricultural planners in Pakistan then lost the way as after achieving a share of 9.1% in global cotton production the decline started which they could not stop and the country's cotton production share to 8.2%.

Indian agricultural planners, in contrast, gave their country a giant leap and the country now produces 19.6% of the total cotton produced globally. Availability of local cotton has provided the Indian textile industry with a huge price advantage as their share in world exports has increased from 0.6% during 1970-74 to 12.2% now.

Pakistan's share in global cotton exports has fallen from 2.9% during 1970-74 to merely 0.6%. Even this cotton is exported to keep its rates high in Pakistan. Pakistan, in fact, remained self-sufficient in cotton till the period from 1985 to 1989 and then cotton imports started increasing and currently 5.8% of world cotton exports are destined for Pakistan. Cotton imports in India are only 1% of total global cotton trade. India consumed 11% of the cotton produced in the world during 1990-94 against 8% by Pakistan. Currently, cotton use in India accounts for 15% of total global consumption against 10% in Pakistan.

Shortage of local cotton is one of the major factors which has kept the textile industry of the country under pressure, said All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Punjab) Chairman Akber Sheikh. He said cotton farmers might not be getting a right price due to control of middlemen but spinners got their basic raw material above global cotton rates due to production shortfall.

APTMA former Chairman Abid Farooq said frequent change of governments had hampered efforts to introduce Bt cotton technology which sparked revolution in the Indian textile industry.

He said negotiations with global Bt cotton suppliers should continue by successive governments so that vital interests of the country were not compromised.

According to him Pakistan had to sign an agreement with a leading Bt cotton seed producer in the US the day army toppled the government in 1999, the issue was not taken up by the next government which had adversely impacted the textile sector.

APTMA's reaction to anti-dumping duty

All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) has accused the National Tariff Commission (NTC) of shutting down all avenues for competitive import of Polyester Staple Fibre (PSF) from Southeast Asia, through imposition of anti-dumping duty. The Association has written a letter to the Commerce Minister, requesting him to look into the issues faced by representatives of textile sector who are unable to purchase PSF at reasonable rates.

The Association revealed that the annual installed capacity of PSF was 65,000 tonnes whereas current production is 32,000 tonnes per month and the country's requirement given the prevailing economic slowdown is more than 40,000 tonnes per month.

Shortage has led to a situation where PSF is unavailable even on cash payment. Consequently, textile production across the entire chain is being adversely affected and export orders are being delayed.

According to the Association, NTC has imposed more than 10% anti-dumping duty on import from Chinese sources. Earlier anti-dumping duty was levied on PSF imports from South East Asian countries, thus all avenues for competitive import have been closed for the textile industry.

The Association urged the government that a provision be made immediately as a temporary contingency measure for import of 10,000 tonnes PSF per month free from import and anti-dumping duties.

Knitwear industry in dire straits

The knitwear industry is in dire trouble as the number of knitwear exporting units has declined from 1,183 in 2005 to only 840 in 2009 and the closed units include some of the most efficient high tech larger factories in this sector. This was revealed in a presentation on the state of knitwear industry in Pakistan given by Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association.

The presenters stated that Pakistan has the most efficient and high tech knitwear industry in the region that produces better quality clothing then its competitors and closure of over 30% of the industry should be an eye opener for the economic planners. They attributed the decline to flawed government policies. Government withdrew the R&D facility although its own statistics revealed that after grant of this facility the knitwear exports increased at a high pace.

Highlighting the importance of clothing sector, former Chairman PHMA Shahzad Azam said that clothing sector provides highest number of jobs in textiles and adds highest value to exports as well. He said one bale of cotton earns foreign exchange worth $238 only while knitwear exported from one bale of cotton fetches $1,600.

$1 million additional investment in spinning or weaving creates 34 new jobs with additional exports of $270,000 and $1 million additional investment in apparel sector generates 460 jobs and additional exports of $3.2 million.

Vice chairman PHMA Adil Butt deplored that the government continue to levy 3.36% taxes on exports despite claiming that exports are zero rates. In addition it deducts 0.58% of the export value as workers welfare levies. Besides enormous increase in utility rates the inflation has increased from 4.2% to over 20% and minimum wages from Rs 2,500 to Rs 6,000.

Government imposes anti-dumping duty on import of Chinese PSF

Pakistan has imposed provisional anti-dumping duty on import of Chinese polyester staple fibre (PSF) ranging from 0% to 10.44% of the CIF value in a bid to provide protection to domestic manufacturers. The duty would be applicable on PSF into Pakistan originating in and exported from China for a period of six months before coming up with final dumping duties for five years. PSF is used in woven and knit applications to produce textile and apparel products. The National Tariff Commission (NTC) initiated an investigation into the case on July 29, 2008, in response to an anti-dumping application filed by Dewan Salman Fibres, Ibrahim Fibres and ICI Pakistan on behalf of domestic industry which identified 54 exporters from China involved in dumping of PSF. The NTC after due process made a preliminary determination and found dumped imports. The spinning industry has strongly objected imposition of provisional anti-dumping duty on import of Chinese polyester staple fibre (PSF) to provide protection to domestic manufacturers and lamented the hostile attitude of the government towards the spinners.

The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association in a statement has appealed to the textile minister and the Commerce Minister to look into the crisis created by the anti-dumping duty and the increase in prices and start proceedings against the price fixation by the PSF cartel. According to APTMA, the PSF manufacturers are increasing the price and to take full advantage of the increase are refusing deliveries to even their regular clients who are willing to pay cash advance to keep their mills running. Local PSF manufacturers have jacked up their already high prices by another 10%, the margin afforded by the anti-dumping duty. Local PSF manufacturers already enjoy a protection of 4.5% import duty on PSF and 8.5% expenses that are incurred on importing the raw material.

Muhammad Ashraf Gandhi, Central Chairman, Pakistan Yarn Merchants' Association has said that the recent increase in prices of polyester fibre by the cartels of polyester fibre manufacturers would further aggravate the problems of the ailing textile industry. The concept of anti dumping duty under W.T.O. is to prevent the finished goods industry of country from unfair competition from abroad. However in the present state the spinning industry is being deprived of cheap raw material by imposing anti dumping duty on the imports of PSF. The government should take notice of the polyester fibres manufacturers cartel and the said duty be taken off, he demanded.

Chairman All Pakistan Textile Association (APTA) Adil Mehmood said the basic textile is suffering both ends, as it neither able to get cheaper cotton nor cheaper PSF. He said the government steps suggest that it was not serious in continuity of spinning and weaving industries in the country. According to the spinners, the government intervenes through Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) when cotton prices fall and impose anti-dumping duty when PSF is imported by spinners and weavers from outside to meet rising cost of doing business. It is only the spinning and weaving industry that is being meted with a step-motherly treatment.

Elimination of zero-rated sales tax to hamper exports

Chairman, the Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA) (Central) Agha Saiddain has said that elimination of zero-rated sales tax on electricity and gas bills would hamper the country's exports and urged the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to avoid taking such decision.

He expressed his concern over news regarding elimination of the zero rate sales tax facility on electricity and gas bills and has asked the FBR authorities to convene a meeting of the stakeholders prior to finalising any decision in this regard that could severely impact the country's exports negatively. He further said that incentive packages are being announced world over to save the industry from total collapse because of the current global recession. The developed economies have taken the lead while the developing countries are following the footsteps of the USA and the European countries.

The newly elected President of the USA, Barak Obama has also introduced stimulus of US $787 billion to save the American economy. Pakistan is also facing historical trade deficit of more then $11 billion just in seven months of the current financial year. The imports have increased to double of the exports that forced the Pakistan government to seek IMF financial assistance; he stressed the need for combating the trade deficit issue by enhancing exports.

Incentive package for apparel sector on the cards

The Ministry of Textile is working on a new incentive package for the apparel sector with the continuation of sales tax zero-rating facility for the entire textile industry in 2009-10. The issue came to the light during a meeting of the Steering Committee on Perspective Plan for Textile and Clothing Industry. The meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Textile Industry Rana M. Farooq Saeed Khan.

The representatives of the Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association said that the Textile Minister and the Federal

Board of Revenue (FBR) agreed to continue the sales tax zero-rating facility for the textile sector.

The FBR has endorsed the viewpoint of the Ministry of Textile for continuation of the zero-rated policy. The textile industry can now approach the FBR for discussing their issues, including sales tax-related matters.

KBP demands ban on cotton import from India

Kissan Board Pakistan has demanded of the government to ban import of cotton from India to save 1200 ginning factories from financial crunch, said Secretary General KBP Malik Mohammad Ramzan. He said Indian government has announced 5% subsidy for the importers of cotton from India. This offer may allure the Pakistani Textile Mills owners to buy cotton from India instead of the local ginners, who have more 1.346 million bales in their stocks. Malik said if the local cotton ginners are unable to clear their stocks in time, they will be cash starved and therefore would be unable to buy seed cotton (phutti) from the growers this year, thus Pakistani farmers and agriculture sector would be ultimate sufferers.

A former President of Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association, Mohammad Azam Warriach said that the ginners had taken large loans from the banks on high interest rates to do business and make prompt payment to the farmers for purchase of the phutti. The ginners are under pressure to sell their product in order to curtail their financial liabilities as the spinners might prefer to import cotton ulting in economics catastrophe and law and order situation in the country.

Government not utilising R&D fund towards BISP

The Federal government did not utilise the subsidy allocated for apparel sector Research and Development (R&D) fund towards Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), said Farzana Raja, Federal Minister who is also in charge of the BISP. However, they added, the government has set aside the idea of extending R&D fund to the apparel sector, instead it is being utilised for BISP, facilitating the poor strata of the society as subsidy of Rs 1,000 per month to 3.5 million families. The total amount allocated under the programme is Rs 35 billion, which would be doubled next year.

The R&D fund, on the other hand, was a subsidy for the value-added sector, initiated by the Musharraf regime back in 2006 and total amount under the scheme was not crossing Rs 14 billion initially. However, once the scope of R&D fund was widened to benefit the processing sector, it had increased by a few billion rupees further. The apparel sector has criticised the move and termed it as an irrational approach of stopping a subsidy to the industry, at the cost of 3.5 million families out of the huge population of 170 million, however, the Federal Minister denied any such act on the part of government.

Investment fund for specialised textile machines envisaged

The Ministry of Textile is working on a new textile policy to facilitate exports under which a summary is being prepared to establish an Investment Support Fund (ISF) for specialised textile machines and allow duty drawback on exports of textile products.

Minister of Textile Industry Rana Muhammad Farooq Saeed informed the National Assembly during question-answer session that the new policy would be finalised by the end of March to facilitate the textile sector. He added that the garment cities would also be established in Sialkot and Multan on the pattern of other cities. To facilitate the textile industry, government has granted 6% R&D support to garment exports (both knits and woven). R&D support to export of dyed/printed and White, Home Textile @ 3% & dyed/printed textile @ 5% of the FOB. The scheme has been discontinued from June 30, 2008. As per the estimates provided by the State Bank of Pakistan, the government has doled out Rs 40 billion to textile exporters of the country.

The government has allowed mark-up rate subsidy of 3% to spinning sector on outstanding running balances of principal amount availed by the industry from commercial banks/DFIs for financing of import of spinning machinery. The facility was admissible for loans availed during July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2007. However, with the efforts of Mintex, the scheme has been extended for another year ie June 30, 2009. The government would have to bear outlay of approximately Rs1.2 billion for this extension. Textile Skill Development Board has been formed in the Ministry of Textile Industry. Under the board, Stitching Machine Operator Training (SMOT) Scheme has been launched. So far about 3,700 workers have been trained. The government has been paying stipend of Rs 5,000 per trainee and Rs 2,000 to the trainer per trainee per program of two months to support the industry. The facility is being extended to towel & Bbd wear sector also. Three garment cities are being set up in Karachi, Lahore and Faisalabad. The development work of the garment cities of Faisalabad and Lahore is under way. The total cost of the Faisalabad and Lahore garment cities is Rs 498 and 497 million respectively. The land for the Karachi Garment City has been acquired and development work will start soon.

Textile exporters demand duty-free access to US and EU markets

The Pakistan Textile Exporters Association has demanded duty-free market access to the USA and European markets for textiles goods to overcome the current economic recession and to strengthen Pakistan economy.

Chairman of the Association, Muhammad Yousaf, and Vice Chairman Rehan Naseem Bharara emphasised that it was vital for survival of exports and textile industry to provide duty-free market access in the European countries. They said that being the frontline partner of war on terror; the European Union gave duty-free market access to Pakistan's textiles for three years. During this period, textile exports increased from $5 billion to $10 billion. After this, the exporters not only should maintain these figures but should also increase this figure by adding $1 billion with own efforts.

The two leaders said that the manufacturing activity had been reduced to half for irregular and unscheduled electricity and gas load shedding. They were also critical of frequent hikes in electricity and gas tariff due to which the cost of production had been increased. They demanded some special measures from the government on account of the manufacturing losses due to energy crisis.

They said that in 2005 the industrialists increased their production capacity through heavy investments but due to irregular and unscheduled electricity and gas load shedding, high bank mark-up rates and acute shortage of other inputs, the manufacturing activity had been reduced to 25%. They demanded that the government should take remedial measures to save the textile exporters from total disaster, or there would be complete closure of industry and millions of labourers would lose employment, resulting in the industrial unrest.

Denial of R&D support to textile sector causes setback

Anis Ahmed Shaikh President of Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has said Pakistan's textile sector was nearly 10% to 15% behind other regional competitors including India, Bangladesh and China, which provided research and development (R&D) support to the textile sector. In a statement, he said that government had rolled back the R&D support this financial year, which increased the cost of doing business. He Ahmed Sheikh has urged upon the government to implement its proposal to grant relief to textile sector on gas in order to cut the cost of doing business.

Anis Sheikh further said that increase in mark-up rates, energy prices, raw material and wages have increased the cost of doing business in spite of the fact that prices of oil are declining in international markets day by day. The textile and allied industries, in the present political and economical scenario is passing through its worst times, particularly after withdrawal of Research and Development (R&D) support. In the absence of this support, at least 30 percent textile and made-up industry has faced closure rendering a large number of workers jobless.

APTMA for urgent steps to overcome energy crisis

Senior Vice Chairman of All Pakistan Textiles Mills Association (Aptma) Khawaja Anees Ahmed has expressed grave concern over awful load shedding and demanded of the government to take urgent measures to overcome the energy deficit as it is severely affecting the economy. In a statement he said that huge load shedding was hitting the industrial production hard.

He said that hundreds of industrial units have been closed due to energy shortage but government is showing no interest to overcome the energy crisis. Textile industry has more than 60% share in country's exports, 27% in industrial value addition and 38% in employment sector but energy deficit pushed this large sector to the wall. Exporters are unable to meet their export orders; therefore, the government should wakeup and take steps on urgent basis to salvage the industrial sector.

The government should take energy crisis very seriously and make both long-term and short term plans to resolve this problem. He further said that sixty thousand jobs are in danger as a result of the downfall in industrial production in Faisalabad region due to severe load shedding of electricity and gas. He demanded that export oriented units be exempted from electricity and gas load shedding and the government should refund the duties and levies paid by exporters on raw material and inputs, in order to reduce the cost of doing business in the country.

EU garment makers looking towards Pakistan for joint venture

Advisor to Prime Minister on Textile Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig has said that due to current recession, increasing cost and wages, garments manufacturers of European Union are seriously looking towards Pakistan to have joint ventures for supply to their chain of stores. He recently return from European Union countries' visit, where he met Senior Executive Nicola Monti of Werner International in Nice, France one of the largest and renowned textile consultants of the world having more than 40 years experience being associated with textile and apparel industry of Pakistan, India China and other sixty five countries. According to Werner, EU garment units are moving from US and EU to China and India and brands are looking for more routes for supplies and are interested to have joint ventures in Pakistan.

Brands like Tommy and Hilfiger also want to shift logistic capacity, R & D and warehousing facilities at the supplier's end to cut their cost. Dr Baig said that Pakistan has achieved high growth in textile and apparel but has less share of international market than its competitors.

Government releases the stuck up funds immediately

Textile industry has demanded from the government to arrange rescheduling of their loans instead of cutting down the rate of interest. In a seminar organised by Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association, this was said when the Federal Textile Minister, Rana Faruque Saeed Khan was also present. The industrialists participating in the seminar told the government that presently all the textile sectors including the spinning and apparel was under severe pressure due to high cost inputs.

They said that the global slowdown could prove to be good for the Pakistani exporters, as Pakistani products were cheaper and the possibility of increasing sale of cheaper goods are gradually increasing. They demanded that instead of wasting the precious gas on CNG stations, it should be provided to the industry and the cheap gas supply to fertilizer factories should also be stopped.

Textile sector losing export market to other countries

Bangladesh has grabbed the garments market and now its garments exports have swelled to US $22 billion per annum. Pakistan has significantly lost its garments export market due to the high cost of production among other reasons while maintaining its competitive position in bed wear market. Syed Muhammad Aasim Shah, Chairman of All Pakistan Bed sheet and Upholstery Manufacturers Association (APBUMA) said that government had fixed the target of bed wear export at US $1900 million but we exported the bed wear of US $1904 million during July-December 2008 while our ready-made garment exports stood at US $1452 million against the target of US $1,575 million in last six months.

Knitwear (Hosiery), however, met the target and its export rose to US $1,872 million against the target of US $1,850 million. The APBUMA dreaded the continuation of interest rates imposed on textile industry by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) is set to devastate textile industry. He underscored the major grievances of textile industry are the heavy interest rates charged by banks, load-shedding of electricity and suspension of gas supply which he maintained were enough to finish textile industry.

One-year moratorium on long-term loans

Only 2% industrialists and exporters from Faisalabad would benefit from one-year moratorium on LTF (EO) facility, as majority comprise medium and small scale textile units. This came out during a survey of textile industries belt in Khurrianwala and Jinnah Colony, Faisalabad. Most of the textile exporters were disappointed by the bailout package announced recently by the government, said Salamat Ali, Vice Chairman of Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association (North Zone).

He said that there were more than 350 manufacturing units and exporters in Faisalabad region, but only 5 or 6 units had availed the facility, and the remaining units, for one reason or the other, could not avail the facility, hence, the bailout package had limited efficacy. The need of the hour was that the government should help out the industry and exporters as a whole.