

PRESS RELEASE

AEPC welcomes incentives for garment exporters

New Delhi, Apr 1 -- The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) today welcomed the government's decision to reintroduce duty-free scrips worth two per cent of export value under the Market Linked Focus Product Scheme (MLFPS).

"I express our gratitude on behalf of the entire garment industry for announcing the new MLFPS for the United States and the 27-member European Union for the period April 1 to September 30, 2010," AEPC chairman Premal Udani said in letters to Union Textile Minister Thiru Dayanidhi Maran and Union Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma.

"We assure you that the garment industry will take full advantage of the announcement and do its best to bring back the industry to positive growth," said Mr Udani. The government yesterday unveiled incentives as the demand for some products is yet to pick up in key western markets while the country's overall exports are looking up.

Mr Udani had taken up the issue with the government soon after taking over as the chairman of AEPC in January 2010.

He also urged the government to extend two per cent interest subvention on export credit which was discontinued for apparel sector in the budget for 2010-11. "We hope bold steps will be introduced to help the sector which provides jobs to lakhs of workers across the country."