BUSINESS RECORDER KARACHI TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2016 13

## Non-release of refunds: exporters postpone protest

## **RECORDER REPORT**

KARACHI: The exporters have postponed their protest against non-release of multiple tax refunds, accumulating to the tune of Rs 343 billion, which they said has badly hit the industrial production.

The associations of five export sectors on Monday announced to postpone their planned protest, which was to be held from February 15 to March 3, against the government's apathy towards ending the financial ordeals of the exporters.

"The country's exports have fallen by 14.37 percent to a 32year low," Pakistan Apparel Forum Chairman Javed Bilwani told a joint news conference here at the PHMA House.

He warned the federal government of countrywide protests if the refund claims were not released. He said that the protest was put off due to a meeting with the prime minister to sort out the issues.

He also asked the federal government to reduce the power tariff for industrial users as per the prime minister's announcement on December 29, 2015.

Bilwani slammed the government for not implementing the incentive package announced by the prime minister in a meeting with the representatives of industries on September 11, 3 2015. "Despite the passage of five months, no package has been provided yet," he added.

He said that the government had been holding billions of rupees refunds of the exporters, which continued to reduce their industrial production and exports.

FIVE EXPORT SECTORS Garments Manufactures and Bilwani recalled that Finance

Minister Ishaq Dar had during his budget speech announced to release all refunds within three months.

He said that the government had "failed" to deliver on the economic front. "The incumbent government has completely failed to lift the country's exports," he added.

He was of the view that the government had adopted wrong" economic policies to arrest the fall in exports.

Abdul Rasheed Fodderwala, Chairman, Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association; Shaikh Shafiq Rafiq, Central Chairman, Pakistan Readymade Garment Manufacturers & Exporter Association; Khawaja Muhammad Usman, Chairman, Pakistan Cotton Fashion Apparels Manufacturers & Exporters Association; Zulfigar Ali Chaudhary, Chairman, All Pakistan Textile Processing Mills Association; Rafiq Godil, Former Chairman, Pakistan Sweater and Knitwear Exporters Association; Abdus Samad, Chairman, Pakistan Pakistan Leather black armbands. Chief,

Exporters Association and Muhammad Naeem Khokhar, Senior Vice-Chairman, Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers & Exporters Association also spoke on the occasion.

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They expressed concern over the government's policy of ignoring the country's foreign trade. "The government is continuing to delay the release of sales tax refund claims, custom rebate claims and DLTL claims," they said, adding that the non-release of funds had badly hurt the export sector. 5%,

They demanded of the government to speed up release of the held-up payments and revive 'no payment no refund' system. Besides, they sought reduction in power, gas and water tariffs for the export sector.

"The power rate in Bangladesh and India is \$ 0.10/kwh, while in Pakistan \$ 0.14/kwh. The industrial captive power plants' gas tariff of Bangladesh is \$ 3.01/mmbtu and India's is \$ 4.66/mmbtu, while in Pakistan it is \$ 7.68/mmbtu," they said.

Following the joint press con-Cloth Merchants Association; ference, they staged a protest at Fawad Ijaz Khan, Patron-in- the PHMA House wearing



## THE NEWS 16 FEB 2016 Pogeno 15

## Textile industry warns protest against falling exports

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KARACHI: Value-added textile sector warned the government of mass protests across the country if the authorities could not arrest the declining exports.

a Jawed Bilwani, chief coordinator of value-added textile sector at a press conference on Monday, said exports of the country hit 32-year low. The textile export is the major component of the total exports.

gifthe fall in exports was attributed to serious liquidity issues due to pending refund, customs rebates and duty drawback on local taxes and levies claims.

"In order to overcome the lighting crisis, the government had made commitments sevest times," Bilwani said,

He said the chairmen of five export sectors earlier agreed on a schedule of protest, inchiding sit-ins before the offices of the Federal Board of Revenue. "However, this has been postponed for seven to 10 days after the announcement of the Prime Minister regarding discussions with stakeholders to save the exports," he added.

The protests were scheduled for February 15 – March 3. "In case the government refuses the demands then new protests dates will be announced," he added.

Bilwani said the prime minister had announced resumption of zero-rating from July 01, 2016. "However, the business community is not sure as past decisions of the government functionaries were not honoured," he added.

The government should release stuck refunds to the tune of over Rs200 billion within 15 days and transfer cash in seven days in those cases where refund payment orders had been issued by tax authorities.

Bilwani said the exporters are also facing competitive issues due to high tariff of gas and electricity in the country.



ودزنامه جنگ کرایمی منگل 16 رفز وری 2016ء





روزنامدا يكسيريس، كراچى- منگل، 16 فرورى، 2016ء



رور مامديو پار مراي روان ۱۵ ٦ مرور ١٥ ٢ ٧٦ء

دوماہ میں ایکیپورٹ میں 14 فیصد کی نے 32 سالہ ریکارڈ تو ژ دیا باکستان کی 5 بڑی برآ مدی صنعتوں کے نمائندگان کی جانب سے فنڈ زریفنڈ نہ کئے جانے پر تخت الحکم کمل کا عند میہ كراچى (اشاف ريورٹر) پاكستان كى 5 برى بر کی جانب سے فنڈ زریفنڈ نہ کئے جانے پر سخت آمدى صنعتول كے نمائندگان نے وفاقي حکومت لاتحمل كاعنديد ويدا، ايكسبور ثرز كے مطابق دو ماہ میں ایکسپورٹ میں 14 فیصد کی نے 32 سالہ ريكار أورا - في الح ايم ال باوس من ير كومايخ زيردر مديشكرز شكستائل، ليدر، سرجيل، كاريف اوراسيورش كدر ينائدون في وفاقى. كولت بت كها كما يح يلويكس ريفت مشم ريبية اور ڈى ايل ٹى ايل كے ركے ہوئے ظير كى ادائيگيال شروع نه كيس تو ملك كير احتماع كما جائے گا اور تمام علاقائی ٹیکس دفاتر اور کمٹس ہاؤس کے سامنے مسلُد حل ہونے تک دھرنا بھی دیاجائے گا۔ بڑی بر آمدی صنعتوں کے نمائندوں نے پر لیس بر یفنگ کے دوران حکومت کوایک ہفتے کی مہلت دیتے کہا کہ اب حکومت کے برنس فرینڈ لی ہونے کے دعوے تبیں مانے جابی کے، اگر ہمیں فنڈر يفنڈ اور بيلز عكس سے پيسے واپس نہ كئے گھے تو 37 - 1 مسم باؤس سمیت مختلف مقامات پر دهرنے C.H.S. دیتے جائیں گے ۔ پاکتان اپیرل فورم کے ACHI چیزین محدجاوید بلوانی نے کہا کہ حکومت خودانے بی توانین کی خلاف ورزی کرتی ب اور انبی ركول كى دور ب ياكتان كى ايكسبور ف2ماه ين 14 فيصد كم موجلى بجس - 32 مال يرانار يكارد توث كما-

روزنامنى بات (14) 16 فرورى 2016ء



