

Safeguarding Farm Lands

Hazards of Dyeing Effluents

A Letter to the Prime Minister of India

FGG Report

The Foundation has been deeply concerned about the plight of the thousands of farmers, several thousands of workers, hundreds of Dyeing Factory owners and also the health of the lakhs of citizens living in and around the world famous textile town of Tirupur, due to the effluents polluting in and around Tirupur since decades.

Shri. D.R. Kaarthikeyan, President of Foundation for Peace, Harmony and Good Governance (FGG), also in his capacity as President of National Agriculturists Awareness Movement (NAAM) has been concerned about the situation and visiting the affected areas and holding discussions with all concerned and authorities from time to time. Recently he visited Tirupur and after discussions, also visited the newly established Common Effluent Plant erected at huge cost.

The pollution has to be stopped to reclaim thousands of acres of agricultural land already damaged because of the effluents from the dyeing factories since decades. It has to be stopped also to save the effluents from further damaging the health of the population already suffering from the pollution of the underground water. At the same time the factories giving employment to several thousands of workers from all parts of the country and earning nearly Rs. 12,000 crores of foreign exchange to the nation have to be saved.

Hence he has taken up the issue by writing a detailed memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu and all other concerned ministers and officers of the Central and State Governments

Dear and Respected Hon'ble Prime Minister,

Sub: Safeguarding the farm lands in Tirupur, Tamilnadu, from becoming unproductive due to the effluents from the hundreds of knitwear Dyeing Factories.

Namaskar!

I am writing this letter in my responsibility as President of the Foundation for Peace, Harmony and Good Governance as well as that of the National Agriculturists Awareness Movement.

While thanking you for giving one time relief in the budget to the problems faced by all sections of the people of Tirupur, I would request you to kindly consider the following facts.

During my earlier visits to the Textile town of Tirupur and surrounding areas of Tamilnadu, I found several thousands of Farmers suffering due to their lands becoming unproductive due to the effluents from the hundreds of knitwear Dyeing Factories.

At the same time these factories established long back have been providing jobs to thousands of people from all parts of country including even from the villages nearby. These factories were put up on encouragement from the successive governments of Tamilnadu and the center, to increase exports and to provide employment. At that time they were not guided about the treatment of the effluents.

Today 85% of the Rs. 14,000 crore worth of cotton knitwear exports from the country are from Tirupur industries. They provide livelihood to several thousands of workers hailing from many parts of the country.

The effluents have to be treated to save the farmlands and also to prevent pollution of the underground water and atmosphere. At the same time the expanding and prosperous knitwear industry also has to be saved and further promoted.

Keeping these objectives in mind the Dyers Association of Tirupur have invested over Rs. 1,000 crores for pollution control and established the plants ensuring Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD). But the Dyeing industry is not



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in a position to commence operation and run the expensive CETP (Common Effluent Treatment Plants). The operating cost comes to about Rs. 200 Crores per annum. It is due to the high cost of power intensive ZLD systems, huge interest burden and huge loan repayment commitments.

the farming operations in and around Tirupur.

With Best Regards,

Yours Sincerely,

D. R. Kaarthikeyan

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The Dyeing units, depending on job workers operating with wafer thin margins have no capacity to bear this additional cost. It will make it impossible for them to export in a highly competitive global market against the cut-throat competence from countries like China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc., where the cost of production is much less.

During my recent visit to Tirupur I found that though the very elaborate and highly technical CETP having been completed, the Dyers are finding it impossible to put into operation because of the prohibitive cost of the operation involved.

The detailed representation dated 19/2/2010, from the Dyer's Association of Tirupur is enclosed herewith for favour of consideration.

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The Government of Tamilnadu, realizing the imperative of saving the industry, have committed to provide Rs. 120 crores as the State Government's share.

We are grateful that in today's budget the Government of India have announced one-time grant of Rs 200 crore for setting up effluent treatment plant at the Tirupur textiles cluster.

If sufficient support is extended the Tirupur Dyeing Industry is capable of (1) providing livelihood to lakhs of workers from all parts of the country (2) increase exports worth Rs. 20,000 crores by the year 2015 (3) establish a model cluster of Small and Medium Enterprises for the whole country and (4) achieve all these without causing any pollution to the environment, water and farming operations around the area.

The industry has the capacity of fulfilling the above objectives. It is prayed that the Government may consider constituting a mission/commission to have an indepth study into the problems of Tirupur and take immediate measures to give relief to the lakhs of people involved in the Dyeing industry and