

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL (TECHNOLOGY?) TEXTILES
(TT) UNDER FORMATION
A NOTE ON ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ACTION PLAN

The Adhoc Committee has been given the freedom to evolve its own terms of reference within the broad framework of "Growth and Export Promotion of the TT Industry"

These twin objectives are intertwined with each other in an obvious synergy.

Simply put you can not address either of these two goals in isolation.

The twin goals in my view translate into the following specifics.

1. The launch and development in each key segment of the TT industry Global Scale Unit capacities which must have state of art technology, international product quality, cost competitiveness especially in respect of unit capacity investment and energy costs and which can successfully meet the needs of large potential outsourcing international customers and the Domestic markets and if I may take the liberty of adding two more parameters
 - a. World standards of safety and environmental concerns
 - b. A Transparent legal and ethical respect for International Intellectual Property rights.

If we can ensure these basics we would have launched the industry successfully into the right orbit both for growth and exports. Market and statistical assessments can be the back bone but not our primary goal per se as the market dynamics are changing very rapidly.

2. To ensure that we responsibly, convincingly, objectively and with an uncompromising commitment and time bound urgency "induce" practical mechanisms which may be statutory, mandatory or promotional, to be put in place effectively for the use of the right TT product usage for each important end use or market in our country.

May I outline a specific 10 point plan of action which could in effect form the basis of the terms of reference for the Dev Council

1. An International Invest in Technical Textile India Summit Invitation Conference in India and a similar Invest in India theme presence at every major international event and show on TT the Years 2008 & 2009.
2. Constitutes Expert groups with invited International experts to draw out plans to achieve the objective of ensuring Right TT product usage for each key end application and market in our country./
3. Constitute a powerful Advisory Policy and in fact a Caucus group to recommend to the GOI changes or even dismantle every bureaucratic hurdle that may be indentified for this important industry with Deptts such as Excise, Sales tax , Octroi, Customs even Stock Exchanges , State Govt., and Central Govt. Agencies at vareious levels.
4. Provide a credible expert think tank advisory support to achieve the objectives set out for the Technology Mission on TT formed by GOI .
5. Catalyse the launching of education and Indian adapted and need based Research and Development work on TT.
6. Launch the foundation of a NASSCOM type of body for the TT Industry.
7. Constitute a special EXPERT Group dedicated specifically to the potential of TT for achieving the following nationally important objectives.
 - (a) The Second Green Revolution for India's Agriculture
 - (b) Health & Hygiene for India's poorest of the poor .
 - (c) Research into entirely new environmental friendly biodegradable and recyclable TT technologies.
8. A task force dedicated to work on all aspects of conventional as well as unconventional raw materials for the TT industry.

9. A one to one meeting with select erstwhile stalwarts of India's textile industry of the past major to find out what we shall NOT do or allow to happen to the TT industry.

Perhaps a small group of our committee could meet with Mr. Ratan Tata, Arvind Mafat Lal or similar personalities with this specific poser.

Also it may be a good idea to brain storm with stalwarts who may know little of the TT industry but who are India 's global industry leaders of today such as Narayananmurthy, Mahindra, Vijay Mallya etc.

10. Most importantly lets learn from China but not carried away by the temptation of the Chinese Business Model of development of this industry. We need to deliberate in depth on this specific issue and formulate a consensus expert recommendations to the GOI.