

Tanners visit India to get first-hand info about ILEC

RECORDER REPORT

LAHORE: Under the Pakistan Leather Competitiveness Improvement Programme, a 10-member delegation led by Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA) Chairman Gulzar Firoz visited India to have first-hand information about working of the Indian Leather Export Council (ILEC) which could be replicated in Pakistan to enhance exports of leather and leather goods.

Apart from the association chairman, his predecessor, Muhammad Mussaddiq, and representatives of the Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers and Association, Pakistan Glove Manufacturers and Exporters Association and Commerce Ministry officials were part of the delegation who stayed in India between February 1 and 7 to get the real effective tools adopted by the Indian Council of Leather Export at the time of its formation and the facilitation provided by the government as well.

The federal commerce minis-

ter has announced the formation of a Leather Export Promotion Council in Pakistan during an opening function of Pakistan Mega Leather Show '16, in Lahore held on January 28 and assured necessary notification will be shortly issued.

The delegation claimed the visit was productive and useful after having detailed meetings with Council of Leather exports and also participated in the 19th International Footwear Congress held between February 3 and 5 and visited the 31st Chennai Int'l Leather Fair held between February 1 and 3 in Chennai as well.

The council functioning in India, with 3,400 members with the financial support of the Indian government specially allocated sufficient Seed Money for early years of the beginning of council. Representatives of the Commerce Ministry now would submit their report to the authorities concerned about the facilitation required to be provided to the leather industry.

During the Pakistan Leather

Mega Show held in Lahore on January 28, the Federal Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan had announced the formation of the Pakistan Leather Export Council on the same pattern as that of India. The leather sector associations have been demanding of the government to form such council for the past many years.

Industry sources claimed this was the second announcement as the government had previously announced the formation of the council in its Strategic Trade Policy Framework in 2012.

The government had also promised to replicate this idea of council in other sectors if it remains successful. However, the matter could never be preceded beyond the announcement.

The government should have taken into consideration the composition of the Council and necessary funds as a seed money to make it functional but the matter was succumbed of redtapism, the sources claimed.

