

Dear all,

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is deeply concerned about the growing incidence of child labour in our country. As you know children are being engaged in almost every sector that is based on informal and household work. They are subjected to sub-human living and working conditions. Several of them are recruited as bonded labour often sent away from homes as migrant workers, living precariously.

In this regard, NCPCR has come across several such children working for making products for exports or in those sectors where investments are being made from countries abroad. It is only appropriate that we honour the Constitutional obligations towards protection of children's rights and ensure that children are not employed. You are in a position to make a difference in the lives of children and see that their Right to Education is guaranteed.

In several instances there are arguments given for employing children. The manufacturers insist that children are poor and that it is difficult to say no to them due to their vulnerability. It is also stated that it is difficult to monitor child labour because there are many layers mediating between the children and the export councils over which the latter has no control.

It is well known that by employing children no favour is being done to them. They are engaged to work because they are a source of cheap labour and can be forced to work for long hours under sub-human conditions. It is also known that when the export councils have the systems to monitor the quality of goods that is being manufactured, it would certainly have the capacity to monitor the units manufacturing such goods.

There are also examples of some leading international exporters, especially in carpet and garment sector who have drawn up self-regulatory mechanisms to ensure that there is no engagement of child labour in production of their goods. They have shown that through such self-regulatory mechanisms child labour could be avoided.

We therefore urge upon you to make sure that children are not engaged in work. Towards this we advise you to include in your contract with your manufacturer that 'children are not to be employed'. Further, we request you to carry out processes of social audit in all stages of production of goods that you export. This would be from supply to export stage. It is suggested that you circulate this amongst all the members of your council with a specific request to carry out social audits at their level.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,  
Sd/-  
**(Shantha Sinha)**

**Chairpersons, Export Promotion Councils** (As per list attached)

Copy to: **Shri.Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Commerce and Power**

## **Export Promotion Councils under Department of Commerce**

1. ENGINEERING EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
2. PROJECT EXPORTS PROMOTION COUNCIL OF INDIA
3. BASIC CHEMICALS, PHARMACEUTICALS AND COSMETICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL (CHEMEXIL)
4. CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL (CAPEXIL)
5. COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS
6. SPORTS GOODS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
7. GEM AND JEWELLERY EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
8. SHELLAC EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
9. CASHEW EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
10. PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
11. EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR EOUS & SEZ UNITS
12. PHARMACEUTICAL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
13. INDIAN OILSEEDS AND PRODUCE EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION

## **Export Promotion Councils (Textiles Sector) under Ministry of Textiles**

1. APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
2. CARPET EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
3. COTTON TEXTILE EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
4. EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR HANDICRAFTS
5. HANDLOOM EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
6. INDIAN SILK EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
7. POWERLOOM DEVELOPMENT & EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
8. SYNTHETIC & RAYON TEXTILE EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
9. WOOL & WOOLENS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL