

Launch of Package for employment generation in Leather & Footwear sector by Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce & Industry, Government of India on 31.01.2018 at Chennai

The Government of India has approved the special package for employment generation in leather and footwear sector on 15.12.2017. The package involves implementation of *Central Sector Scheme* "**Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme (IFLADP)**" with an approved outlay of **Rs.2600 Crore** over the three financial years from 2017-18 to 2019-20. The IFLADP consisted of sub-schemes namely (1) Human Resource Development (HRD) (2) Mega Leather, Footwear and Accessories Cluster (MLFAC) (3) Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS) Scheme (4) Leather Technology, Innovation and Environmental Issues (5) Establishment of Institutional Facilities (6) Promotion of Indian Brands in Leather, Footwear & Accessories Sector (7) Additional Employment Incentive for Leather, Footwear & Accessories Sector. The special package also includes measures for simplification of labour laws and incentives for employment generation through (a) Enhancing Scope of Section 80JJAA of Income Tax Act (b) Introduction of fixed term employment due to seasonal nature of the Industry.

Keeping the opportunity of participation of Hon'ble Minister in the inauguration function of IILF 2018 at Chennai, as advised by Hon'ble Minister's office and DIPP, the Council for Leather Exports has coordinated with the DIPP and organized this sub-component of the IILF 2018 inauguration.

The Press Brief of the Government of India was issued in four languages namely English, Hindi, Tamil and Bengali, and the same was distributed extensively in the launch function of the Special Package. A Brochure on the IFLADP was designed by DIPP through professional agency, and the same was printed and circulated in the Launch function. Besides, 2 standees for Central Package and one standee for each of the 7 sub-schemes (total = 9 Standees) was prepared and displayed at the venue, for wider awareness creation on the sub-schemes of the IFLADP 2017-2020. This apart, the CLE has brought its own version of 5 Standees for awareness creation and these were displayed in the IILF Fairground.

The launch ceremony consisted of Digital Screen as a backdrop in the Dias, and Shri Anil Agrawal, Joint Secretary, DIPP has given a IPAD to the Hon'ble Minister for touching the digital hand in the IPAD, and upon touched by Hon'ble Minister, three screens appearing one by one in the digital screen, with following content, accompanied by launch ceremony musical orchestra

1. Special Package for Employment Generation in Leather & Footwear Sector – Outlay Rs.2600 Crores.
2. Central Sector Scheme – IFLADP 2017-2020

3. Measures for simplification of Labour Laws& Incentives for Employee Generation

The Brochure on the IFLADP 2017-2020 was unveiled in the Meeting by the Hon'ble Minister accompanied by the dignitaries in the Dias.

Hon'ble Minister in his speech has informed that the IFLADP 2017-2020 would lead to development of infrastructure for the leather sector, address environment concerns specific to the leather sector, facilitate additional investments, employment generation and increase in production. Enhanced Tax incentive would attract large scale investments in the sector and reform in labour law in view of seasonal nature of the sector will support economies of scale. The Special Package has the potential to generate 3.24 lakhs new jobs in 3 years and assist in formalization of 2 lakh jobs as cumulative impact in Footwear, Leather & Accessories Sector. Hon'ble Minister has dwelt on each of the sub-schemes of the IFLADP and explained the benefits offered by these schemes.
