

# Hon'ble Minister of Textiles inaugurates upgraded Common Facility Centre

Saharanpur; 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019



*Hon'ble Union Minister of Women & Child Development and Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, addresses the audience after inaugurating the upgraded Common Facility Centre at Saharanpur*

Hon'ble Union Minister of Women & Child Development and Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, inaugurated the upgraded wood seasoning and treatment plant at Common Facility Centre, Saharanpur on 15th September 2019, in the presence of Mr. Pradeep Chaudhary, Hon'ble Member of Parliament; Mr. Sanjeev Walia, Mayor of Saharanpur; Hon'ble MLAs - Mr. Brajesh Singh and Mr. Devender Nim; Mr. Alok K Pandey, District Magistrate, Saharanpur; Mr. Ravi K Passi, Chairman, EPCH; Mr. Mohit Beniwal, Hon'ble MLA, Saharanpur; Mr. R K Verma, Director, EPCH; and eminent exporters from Saharanpur - Mr. Sheikh Faizan Ahmad, Mr. Ramji Suneja, Mr. Sabir Ali Khan, Mr. Mohd. Iqbal, Mr. Som Goel, Mr. Ravinder Miglani, Mr. Mohd. Zama, Mr. Mohd. Irfan and others; Regional Director of O/o DC (Handicrafts), Mr. Virender Kumar; as well as Shilp Guru and National Award Winner Master crafts persons/artisans.

While inaugurating the upgraded facilities at CFC Saharanpur, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani commented that in her second tenure as the Minister of Textiles, she continues to witness the impressive work being done by EPCH in different craft clusters in the field of creating infrastructure for the development and promotion of handicrafts in the country. Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani commended EPCH for making available upgraded woodworking machines and seasoning plant facility in Saharanpur and hoped for increase in employment opportunities with this initiative as well as overall development of the city of Saharanpur and its adjoining areas. She was satisfied to know that the wood being used in the production of wooden handicrafts in this cluster is coming from legal sources and EPCH has been providing the solution to exporters regarding establishing the chain of custody and legality of wood through its Indian Timber Legality

Assessment and Verification Scheme i.e VRIKSH. Smt. Irani has announced setting-up of a VRIKSH Certification Desk at CFC Saharanpur so that artisans and exporters get this service at their city itself.

Since her becoming Minister of Textiles, Smt. Smriti Irani noticed that EPCH has not only kept the momentum of export growth but has also played a vital role in enhancing the quality of handicraft products by handholding artisans, crafts persons and tiny & medium entrepreneurs through infrastructural facilities, machines, design & technology to enable them to produce products as per prevalent international market demands. The efforts of EPCH are not only increasing exports of handicrafts from the country but also adding to foreign exchange earnings, she said. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Minister announced special promotion of wooden handicrafts from Saharanpur that will include Free of Cost Tool Kits to artisans and educational support through National Open School / IGNOU to the children of artisans. Thereafter, she invited the exporters fraternity of Saharanpur to come forward and join the ongoing "Seva Saptah" till 20th September and Swachhta Abhiyan on 17th September.

During the inauguration ceremony, Smt. Smriti Irani felicitated Shilp Guru Mr. Fayyaz Ahmad; National awardees - Mr. Mohd. Usman, Mr. Javed Ahmad, Mr. Mohd. Dilshad, Mr. Abdul Rehman, Mr. Rehman Ahmad and Mr. Zaheer Ahmad. Mr. Sheikh Faizan Ahmad, President, Saharanpur Wood Carving Manufacturers Association and eminent exporter, Mr. Ramji Suneja were honoured for their contribution to the Saharanpur wooden handicraft industry. The Hon'ble Minister also distributed Artisan ID Cards "Pehchaan" and "Recognition of Prior Learning Certificates" to artisans and crafts persons.

Citing that handicrafts are produced by artisans and crafts persons in interior parts of the country, Mr. Ravi K Passi, Chairman, EPCH, said that the Council, under its well planned strategy, decided to set up common facility centres at different craft clusters by providing latest machines to the exporters so that they can produce assortments as per international demands. Saharanpur alone has about 400 woodcraft manufacturing units. Mr. Passi added, "looking at the



Mr. Ravi K Passi, Chairman, EPCH, addresses the gathering at the ceremony



Hon'ble Minister of Textiles honours Sheikh Faizan Ahmad, President, Saharanpur Wood Carving Manufacturers Association and eminent exporter, Mr. Ramji Suneja



potentiality of exports from this city and need of exporters here, the Council has installed latest wood working machines which include pneumatic clamping carrier with compressor, double side planner with dust extraction system, wide belt sander with dust extraction system, straight line RIP saw with dust extraction system, sliding compound mitre saw, vacuum pressure impregnation plant for timber, steam boiler and timber seasoning kilns. Apart from these machines, the capacity of the seasoning plant has also been enhanced from 1000 CFT to 2000 CFT." ■