

Regarding exemption of BIS norms on the products of footwear industry in Andhra Pradesh-laid

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA): I would like to raise an important issue regarding problems being faced by MSMEs in the footwear industry in Andhra Pradesh in light of the Quality Control Orders making BIS standards compulsory for all footwear. Though the footwear industry is not against implementing quality standards, they believe that the current standards are unscientific, subjecting low-cost footwear to the same stringent standards as that for premium branded products. For instance, the standard is the same for an affordable Injection-mould PVS shoe and costly sports shoes made by multinational companies. More than 75% of the Indian footwear industry is in the Unorganized Sector. More time is needed for BIS to build sufficient infrastructure for testing and ensure the availability of suitable raw materials for smaller units. Otherwise, they will be driven to closure, leaving behind only a handful of organized enterprises and MNCs in this sector. I urge upon the Minister of Commerce and Industries to extend the exemption period for Micro and Small units producing footwear costing below Rs. 1000. Moreover, I urge upon the Hon?ble Minister to conduct further consultations with MSMEs so that corrections can be made in the standards to broadly cover product category, product price, process of manufacturing, and raw material.