











You are here: ET Home > Industry > Services > Retail

Search for News, Stock Quotes & NAV's

# Home-based workers demand visibility in brands' supply chain

By *Shramana Ganguly*, ET Bureau | Mar 19, 2016, 05.20 PM IST

[Post a Comment](#)

**AHMEDABAD:** More than 3.5 lakh home-based workers across Indian towns and cities, stitching garments or shoes or making traditional crafts for local suppliers of global retailers such as GAP, Monsoon and Walmart, will come together to demand that they get living wages as per ILO-recognised code of labour practice.

"The workforce that makes India a hub of the biggest home-based workers is invisible," said Renana Jhabvala, president of HomeNet South Asia (HNSA), which represents 6 lakh home-based workers across eight countries of the region.

HomeNet plans to engage global and domestic brands and retailers to streamline their supply chain and ensure Indian supply chains maintain records of home-based workers' wages and make sure their remunerations are in line with the International Labour Organization's Ethical Trading Initiative.

HomeNet is organising an international conference on 'Celebrating Home-based Workers: Twenty Years and Time for Action' in Ahmedabad on Sunday, on the 20th anniversary of ILO Convention 177 on Homework.

The convention would also call for a national policy on homework, covering aspects of earnings, social security and skill buildings of this workforce, Jhabvala said.

There are estimated 100 million home-based workers around the world, with about half of them living in South Asia.

Apart from factories that churn out garments, shoes, artisanal crafts, sporting goods, electronic assembly, pharmaceutical packaging or packaged food for global consumers, 3.8 crore workers, mostly women, are engaged through contractors in the same supply chain in India. But they remain invisible in the global supply chain.

While brands recognise their presence, wages doled out to them are far less than that given to those employed in factories.

In garmenting, for instance, while a worker employed in a factory would get about Rs 300 per day, her counterpart stitching a garment for the same brand at her home would get just half or even less, Jhabvala said.

A percentage of what brands pay to these home-based workers is taken by middlemen and in the absence of checks and lack of recognition in the supply chain, they have no one to ask questions to.

According to Apparel Export Promotion Council, British multinational retailer Next has in this decade begun issuing passbooks mentioning the work order and the wages to its home-based workers to streamline and monitor its supply chain, and there are attempts to bring other brands under the ambit.



More than 3.5 lakh home-based workers across Indian towns and cities will come together to demand that they get living wages as per ILO-recognised code of labour practice.

**ET SPECIAL:** Love visual aspect of news? Enjoy this exclusive slideshows treat!

---

[Live Market](#)[News](#)[Portfolio](#)[Mobile](#)[Live TV](#)[Newsletter](#)[Commodities](#)[Speed](#)[QnA](#)[Blogs](#)[Alerts](#)[RSS](#)

---

**Other Times Group news sites**

Times of India | इकनॉमिक टाइम्स  
छंदेनैमिक टाइम्स | Mumbai Mirror  
Times Now | Indiatimes  
नवभारत टाइम्स | महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स  
ವಿಜಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ | Lifehacker  
Gizmodo | Eisamay | IGN India  
NavGujarat Samay

**Living and entertainment**

Timescity | iDiva | Bollywood  
Zoom | Luxpresso  
Online Songs | Travel  
Guides | Hotel  
Reviews | Cricbuzz.com | Prepaid  
Mobile Recharge

**Networking**

itimes | MensXP.com

**Hot on the Web**

Daily Horoscope | Weather in Delhi  
Mumbai Map | Horoscope 2016  
Hotels in Delhi | Xiaomi Mobile  
Phones

**Services**

Book print ads | Online shopping  
Matrimonial | Astrology | Jobs | Property | Buy car | Bikes in India  
Used Cars | Online Deals | Restaurants in Delhi | Movie Show Timings in  
Mumbai  
Remit to India | Buy Mobiles | Listen Songs | Voice Greetings | Technology  
News | Augmented Reality | Mobile Recharge | Compare Mobile Phones