

News monitored for: ACMA

Rickety infra at industrial estates needs attention

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Small businesses that operate from various industrial estates across the city are seeking the government's intervention to upgrade the rickety infrastructure, with the apex auto component makers body ACMA asking for an independent body to maintain these estates.

The city is dotted with industrial estates in all its corners — Ambattur, Guindy, Perungudi, Thirumudivakkam among others — with Ambattur and Guindy being the oldest. These estates are under SIDCO, a state government arm.

"An independent body must be set up which will upkeep the physical infrastruc-

ture in these estates," said Ram Venkatramani, CEO of auto component maker IP Rings. He is also the president of Auto Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA).

He said many small units were facing financial stress. "The cost of compliance including pollution control, labour laws is very high. We need the government's help to address these. We are still governed by a 1948 Factories Act which mandates physical filing of reports, etc., when the law should be only to take care of health and safety of employees. These must change," he said.

The government should help these small businesses by setting common ef-



Ambattur Industrial Estate

fluent treatment plant, sewer treatment plant so that pollution control related compliance costs come down, he said.

Automotive component making is a

cyclical business. "There are times when we don't need all the staff on a permanent rolls. Small businesses must be allowed flexibility to hire," Venkatramani said.

Ambattur Industrial Estate Manufacturing Association vice-president A N Sujeesh said the physical infrastructure was in a bad shape there. "The roads have been dug up to lay stormwater drains and are left unfinished. Sewer from neighbouring areas flows into stormwater drains which discharge into Korattur lake. Everyone blames us for this when we didn't pollute," he said.

He said a common effluent treatment plant for the estate was getting ready and would become operational by March.