

Power outages, low gas pressure causing production losses: APTMA

LAHORE: All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) Punjab Chairman Adil Bashir said on Monday that frequent power outages and low gas pressure are causing production losses to mills.

According to him, the APTMA member mills are facing serious issues of power fluctuations and unannounced loadshedding over the last few weeks. Similarly, they are confronted with a serious issue of extremely low gas pressure for the last one month.

He urged the Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum Omar Ayub Khan, Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Chief Executive Officer Mujahid Pervez Chattha and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) Managing Director Amer Tufail to ensure normal electricity supply and normal gas pressure for export-oriented manufacturing units of the textile sector, enabling them to fulfil their commitment to the government to boost exports, create employment and attract new investment to the export-oriented textile industry.

“Already, the member mills are facing supply interruptions of furnace oil which is of paramount importance for the textile industry dependent on HFO for Captive Power Plants (CPPs) operations and various manufacturing processes, such as dyeing, drying and heating. The member mills are unable to continue production which is fraught with risks of further affecting the smooth supply for export orders. Repeated requests of member mills to get the issue resolved at local levels have resulted in an exercise in futility,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Lahore Chamber of Commerce also expressed deep concern over repeated power outages and feared that it would hit the industrial production. LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh in a statement said that power outages, coupled with weaknesses in transmission and distribution system need immediate attention of the concerned authorities.