

Traders seek opening of businesses

LAHORE: Representatives of over 100 markets in the provincial metropolis at a “traders consultative moot” hosted by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) have urged the government to allow opening of markets and small industries immediately as prolonged lockdown is now becoming ‘unbearable.’

LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar, Vice President Muhammad Ali Mian and representatives of over 100 markets discussed situation arising out due to lockdown and problems confronted to the small shopkeepers.

After the meeting, the representatives of different markets told media that they are at the verge of bankruptcy due to prolonged lockdown and suspension of trade activities. “If business can be opened in the USA, Italy, Spain, Germany and many other countries with standard operating procedures (SOPs) then why not in Pakistan,” they wondered. They said it is a season for businesses and the government would have to open all trade and industries with SOPs as they have nothing to spend and pay utility bills or salaries.

They said if the government extends the lockdown the traders would be compelled to open their markets/shops from May 10. “We should be allowed to open our businesses even for limited timings,” they added. Among others, Irfan Iqbal, Khalid Pervez, Ashraf Bhatti, Mehboob Ali Sirki, Mujahid Maqsood Butt, Waqar Ahmad Mian, Babar Mahmood, Haji Muhammad Hanif, Zeshan Khalil, Javed Bhatti, Shahid Aslam and Malik Khalid spoke on the occasion.