

Gas supply to zero-rated industry: BMP lauds government's Initiative

The Businessmen Panel (BMP) of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Wednesday while appreciating government initiatives for provision of uninterrupted gas supply to zero rated and captive power industry in winter said that it would help more than 2000 industrial units to resume their production across Sindh and Balochistan saving employment of millions of people.

Both institutions responsible for gas supply will conveniently manage the load for industrial sector with provision of extra gas as decided in the ECC. The secretary textile will coordinate with ministry of petroleum for implementation of this decision from September 27, 2018, while the ministry of finance is working on the mechanism for implementation of the decision.

BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar and other office-bearers while talking to business community said that the Panel has always played vital role in expressing the challenges faced by the trade and industry. It not only raised voice for resolution of industry's problem but also suggested possible solutions to the problems. The Economic Coordination Committee's decision to provide uninterrupted gas supply to zero rated and captive power industry in winter season and provision of 12 MMCFD gas to SNGPL from Dhok Hussain and 10 MMCFD gas from Bitrism gas field to SSGCL is appreciative and in accordance to the demand of the business community.

The BMP has issued a detailed statement on the closure of gas to the important industrial sector in winter and raised its voice on different forums. As a result, the decision has been reverted while the federation's leadership kept silent on this important issue pertaining to industrial sector of the country.

The BMP leadership said that immediate and new export friendly policies are vital to support and increase the country's exports without which getting rid of trade deficit is impossible. In the first four months of current fiscal year, trade deficit has accumulated to \$12 billion at the average of \$3 billion per month. If instant measures to increase exports are not introduced, the trade deficit will increase further instead of decline, he said.

He said the BMP after winning the FPCCI election will work with full enthusiasm for the challenges faced by the business community while using the effective forum of FPCCI for the growth in country's exports.

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