

Captive power plants, PM urged to ensure uninterrupted gas supply

KARACHI: Industrialists have urged the government to order Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) to provide gas with full pressure to captive power plants to run industrial units on optimum level.

They drew the government attention to the fact that when foreign buyers would not get delivery of their order on time, they definitely would turn to other countries next time; therefore government should understand the seriousness of the state of affairs. They sought appropriate measures to provide gas supply on full pressure and without suspension.

They asked the government to direct SSGC to withdraw notices of three-month gas closure to captive power plants otherwise no one would be able to execute export in time, badly impacting the future exports as well.

They lamented non-implementation of Article 158 of the Constitution that "Priority of requirements of natural gas for the province in which well head of natural gas is situated shall have precedence over other parts of Pakistan in meeting the requirements from the well-head, subject to the commitments and obligations as on the commencing day.

They said Sindh province which produces 70 percent of natural gas is deprived of gas. They wondered where this gas produced by Sindh is being supplied while the industries are gas-starved here. They said industries are the backbone of the country for economic growth and development. They said providing gas and electricity is an important task for the government to keep industries operating.

They said all out efforts and planning should be made to ensure smooth operation and further promotion of industrial units.

Former president of KCCI, Siraj Kasim Teli, expressed serious concern over three-month closure notices in spite of the assurances of continuous gas supply given to them by Prime Minister and Federal Minister of Petroleum.

He urged the Prime Minister Petroleum Minister to honour their promises and direct SSGC to ensure gas supply for captive power plants with full pressure.

N H Zuberi