

Gas shutdown: BQATI demands withdrawal of notices for CPPs

Bin Qasim Association of Trade & Industry (BQATI) has urged the government to direct Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) for withdrawal of its recent notification of gas shutdown for captive power plants till further notice, a statement said on Tuesday.

President BQATI Hussain Agha,, Senior Vice President Iftikhar Ahmed, Vice President Haider Amin and Patron In-chief BQATI Mian Mohammed Ahmed in a joint statement on Tuesday said that SSGC decision to shut down gas for captive power plants will be devastating for the Sindh industries as they will be forced to shut down completely due to non-availability of adequate power alternate.

Hussain Agha strongly condemned the notices and said that shutting down gas supply will cripple the industry and economic activity in the city, and cause further unemployment in an already fragile situation created by the drive against illegal encroachments. He criticised the SSGC for its failure to plan in advance for the surge in winter gas demand and not taking the industries into confidence.

The government must understand that shut down of gas supply would render thousands of industrial workers unemployed, cause losses of millions of rupees in revenue for the national exchequer and will discourage investors contemplating industrial investment in the country.

He said that the only available option to captive power based units is natural gas as K-Electric is unable to provide uninterrupted supply in the current situation. He informed that industries are already facing problem of low pressure and closure of gas on every Sunday, and now notices issued today have created panic among the industrial sector.

If the natural gas supply closed to these industries, millions of people will get unemployed, national exchequer will lose billions of rupees in term of taxes, exports will have drastic impacts, trade deficit which has already accumulated to \$ 12 billion from July to November will further swell and the position of balance of payments will worsen. Closure of industries will not only hurt the efforts to revive exports, but will also be detrimental for local industries contributing through import substitution.

He said that gas load management should be improved in order to serve the industrial sector with uninterrupted supply like domestic and commercial consumers enabling the industry to play its role in the economic growth of the country.

Any measure affecting industrial production cannot be acceptable to the business community and requests the concerned quarters to take concrete measures for uninterrupted electricity and gas supply to the industries stressed that Sui Southern Gas Company should immediately withdraw the notices issued to captive power industries.-PR

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