

FBR urged to release tax refund

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Friday took a strong exception of the Federal Board of revenue for delay in the release of Sales Tax Refund and urged them to ensure the refund at the earliest as it was hitting hard the already cash-strapped business community. In a statement issued here, the LCCI President Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry, Senior Vice President Ijaz A Mumtaz and Vice President Faisal Iqbal Sheikh said that undue delay in the release of sales tax refund was hampering the business activities particularly the export-oriented sector was in dire straits.

The LCCI office-bearers said that the Sales Tax Refund was a routine practice but they were unable to understand that why, how and what caused the delay of over nine months in the release of Sales Tax Refund when even the common man in the street knew well that the Industry and particularly the export-based industry was passing through a very challenging times of its recent history. They said that according to their information since the month of October 2009, not a single refund was made by the Federal Board of Revenue and now it has become very difficult for the industrial units to run their day-to-day affairs as the financial cost of doing business in Pakistan had already gone very high because of unprecedented increase in the prices of petroleum products. “On the one hand the banking sector is not reluctant to do any favor while on the other an acute shortage of energy is playing havoc”. They said that the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) instead of turning the institution into a money making machine should concentrate on the overhauling of the FBR administrative machinery because the economy of the country was the ultimate victim of the internal wrangling of the FBR officials.

They said at a time when the entire trade and industry were facing a crisis-like situation, the Federal Board of Revenue should take steps to provide some relief to the industry and ensure to release of sales tax refund as soon as possible.