

LAHORE CHAMBER NEWS

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Provincial Minister for Industries, Commerce & Investment Mian Aslam Iqbal speaks during a meeting at LCCI. President LCCI Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar, Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad and former President Almas Hyder are also present.



Special Advisor to PM for Youth Affairs Usman Dar during a press conference at LCCI. Provincial Minister for Special Education Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq, President LCCI Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar, Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad are also present.

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No more notices to the industry, Minister assures LCCI

Provincial Minister for Industries, Commerce & Investment Mian Aslam Iqbal has said that no notice would be served to the industrialist for industrial regularization until new Master Plan for Lahore is finalized.

He was speaking at a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar, Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad, former President Almas Hyder, former Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzad Nasir and MD WASA Syed Zahid Aziz also spoke on the occasion.

The Minister said that issue of regularization of scattered industrial zones would be resolved once new Master Plan for Lahore is prepared and implemented. On demand of the LCCI President, the Minister directed the MD WASA to resolve the issue of disparity in water charges in different cities immediately as growth of businesses is top

priority of the government.

He also directed the MD WASA to ensure up-to-date drainage system in the markets to avoid financial losses to the business community.

“Punjab government was fully aware of its responsibilities and would utilize all resources to solve the problems faced by the industry. Growth of industry, commerce and investment and sustained development in Punjab through a business friendly environment is top agenda of the government”, the Minister added. LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that industry situated in different parts of the city should be regularized without any hurdle. He said that businesses are already in a deep trouble due to COVID-19 therefore no notice should be served.

He said that sewerage system in the markets of Lahore is outdated, damaged and dysfunctional and shows flood-like situation whenever there is heavy downpour. The LCCI President said that other than sewerage

issues, LCCI members are facing another problem because WASA has revised the water tariff by fixing Rs.100,000 per month and Rs.50,000 per month respectively for extracting ground water through tube-well of 1 cusec and ½ cusec for industrial and commercial consumers in Lahore. He said that this tariff is extremely high as compared to other cities of Punjab like Faisalabad and Multan etc. He said that the approach of fixation of water charges will bring more challenges for the industrial sector that is already facing stiff economic challenges due to the outbreak of COVID-19. LCCI recommends that the water tariff across all cities should be uniform.

Zeshan Khalil, Haji Asif Sehar, Aqib Asif, Zeshan Sohail Malik, Shahzad Aslam, Shafiq Butt, Arshad Khan, Dr. Muhammad Riaz, Wasif Yousaf, Khalid Pervez, Mehboob Sirki, Mian Waqar and others were also present on the occasion.



LCCI Chief demands cut in energy prices

President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has said that balanced energy prices can act as an economic booster therefore, these should be reduced for the trade and industry.

The LCCI President expressed these views while talking to a delegation of leading businessmen at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. LCCI Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad was also present on the occasion.

“Industries need low-cost energy to bring down their cost of doing business and to keep their merchandise competitive in the international market”, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh added.

He said cut in energy prices would

be a great relief to the industries and traders who are suffering heavily because of circumstances fabricated by the coronavirus.

The LCCI President said that high cost of doing business is one of the major issues being faced by the industrial sector and industries need support of the government to bring down their input cost to ensure prominent presence in the international market. Definitely, it would bring much-needed precious foreign exchange to the country and reduce financial pressure.

He said that it is not the industrial sector alone but the agriculture sector would also flourish if govt reduces the energy prices. He said that Pakistan’s agriculture sector is engine of growth. He said that cut

in energy prices would decrease the input cost of agriculture production. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh was of the view that the timeline for reducing the energy prices is right and a major cut in energy prices would help industries to back on their feet.

He further stated that Pakistan needs development of renewable energy resources as it would be prevailing in future. Government should encourage local and foreign investors to invest in this area and not only serve the country but also gain huge benefits.

He said that country has vast scope for renewable energy and its promotion will definitely reduce oil import bill of the country besides reducing the cost of doing business and living cost of the common man.

Alternate energy a viable option: LCCI

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry has urged the business community to adopt alternate energy solutions to get rid of the knocks of high energy prices and fluctuations in power supply while government should extend full support in this regard.

In a statement, the LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar and Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad said that renewable energy resources are a very viable option to meet energy demands. Pakistan has vast resources for renewable energy therefore decision makers should focus this area in the larger interest of trade, industry and economy.

They said that Pakistan depends on fossil fuels to meet its energy

requirements. It is one of the biggest reasons of costly energy. They said that Pakistan is blessed with all kinds of resources that are being used around the world as energy inputs. They said that huge potentials available in Pakistan in the form of wind, solar, and bio-gas and bagasse and distinctively discussed the options as well as developments with respect to each of them.

The LCCI office-bearers said that intelligent financing tools should be worked out because initial cost of installing solar panels, bio-gas plants or other resources is relatively higher for common citizens. Global successful experience and knowledge of implementing green technologies can be used by Pakistan to develop a sustainable

civic and industrial infrastructure and realize rapid economic growth. They said the business community in Lahore and the surrounding areas, as well as across Pakistan, is keen on acquiring economical and reliable alternative energy solutions to sustain their operations. A wide range of green technologies are available in the world for power generation, biogas and biofuels production, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and enhancing productivity and production in a sustainable and environment friendly manner.

Concerned govt departments should work for utilization of indigenous resources for the development and promotion of Industrial sector leading to import substitution and export enhancement.

We want our youth as Job Providers: Usman Dar

Special Advisor to PM for Youth Affairs Usman Dar has said that social and economic development of youth is one of the top priorities of the government as their wellbeing would wet milestones for progress and prosperity of the country.

He was addressing a Press Conference at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar, Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad, Provincial Minister for Special Education Chaudhry Muhammad Akhlaq and Chairman Engineering Development Board Almas Hyder also spoke. LCCI Executive Committee Members and President Sialkot Chamber Ashraf Malik were also present. On the occasion, an exhibition “Shops on the Wheels” was also arranged under public-private partnership.

The Advisor said that Pakistan is the fifth most populous country in the world. Currently, it has the largest generation of young people ever recorded in national history. Sixty-four per cent (64%) of Pakistanis are below the age of 30, and 29% are aged between 15-29 years. He said that Youth between 15-29 years make up 41.6% of Pakistan’s total labour force. Four million Pakistani

youth attain working age every year. He added that to absorb this populace into the job market, Pakistan needs to create 4.5million new jobs over the next five years (0.9 million jobs annually).

He said that under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister, the Government of Pakistan is making all out efforts to convert youth as an economic force for the country. He said that huge investment is being made in youth to capitalize the immense potential of the country.

Usman Dar said that first-ever comprehensive National Youth Development Framework (NYDF) has been developed to ensure quality education, gainful employment and meaningful engagement of youth in economic activities.

Special Advisor to PM said that Kamyam Jawan program is aimed at polishing the skills and abilities of youth so that they can be emerged as job providers and economy boosters instead of job seekers.

LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that energetic youth is a worthy asset of Pakistan that should be used for economic development of the country. “We have to make strong foundation today for a bright future”, he said and added that it is necessary to ensure opportunity for the youth

of Pakistan that will allow them to work as driving force for economic progress & prosperity of the country. He further added that majority of young goes abroad to find out good employment opportunities and this brain-drain is a great economic loss to the country. He mentioned that migration rate of skilled manpower has increased in recent past and a developing country like Pakistan cannot afford continue to lose human resources.

Government should address those issues on priority which are forcing human resources to migrate.

He also called for strong industry-academia linkage saying that it would help produce suitable human resources for the industry. He urged the government to create new jobs in power, mining, manufacturing and service industry. In agriculture the focus will be on value addition chain that is expected to become more attractive for new jobs based in processed and semi processed agro-based industries.

Earlier, Special Advisor to Prime Minister Usman Dar, LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh , Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar, Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad and others took a round to the exhibition.



LCCI wants frequency of tax payments curtailed



Punjab Labour Secretary Muhammad Aamir Jan has said that progress & prosperity of the business community means development of Pakistan. Therefore, Punjab Labour Department is working as a facilitator and ensuring maximum facilities for the trade and industry. He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar and Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad and DG Labour Faisal Nisar also spoke on the occasion while EC members Haris Attiq and Arshad Khan were present.

The Secretary Labour said that policies for labour have been developed with a vision to ensure gainfully employed and satisfied labour force so that they can optimally contribute to the national growth.

He said that promotion of healthy labour management and industrial relations for greater socio-economic progress and development is prime task of the Labour department as

labour force has a fundamental role in industrial development. He said that the role and cooperation of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry is of utmost importance in this regard.

Muhammad Aamir Jan said Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI) collects Rs. 1.3 to 1.4 billions while 1.1 million workers are registered with the Labour Department.

On the occasion, Faisal Nisar gave a detailed presentation on Punjab Occupational Health and Safety Act-19.

LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that trust building between business community and government departments would make the things smoother.

He said that outbreak of COVID-19 has forced us to improvise so that somehow business activities should continue to revive. For that matter, the public departments must cooperate with private sector.

He said that the frequency of tax payments of various labor taxes should be reduced to once a year. Currently, the frequency of Tax

payments of EOBI and PESSI is 12 times a year while the frequency of WWF and WPPF is once a year.

“To reduce cost of Labour and its transportation and enhance competitiveness of our Industry, the Industrial Units should be allowed to utilize 10% of their land for establishing their own Labour Colonies. Government should also take the initiative of establishing Labor Colonies in partnership with Private Sector through a proper Public Private Partnership arrangement”, the LCCI President added.

He said that the current labour laws (under Punjab Industrial Relations Act 2010) allow 25% of Trade Union members to be outsiders (those who are not actually employed as labourers in the particular establishment). This law should be reviewed as external involvement in Trade Union activities results in exploitation of labour force and in certain cases, creates law and order problems.

The LCCI President also called for improvement in online system of Labour Department.

LCCI-BCCI sign MOU



The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the aim to work together for the cause of trade, industry and economy.

LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh and President Bahawalpur Chamber Javed Iqbal Chaudhry signed the MOU while LCCI Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad, BCCI Senior Vice President Ahmad Bilal, Secretary General Abeer Haider and LCCI Secretary General Shahid Khalil were also present on the occasion.

It was also agreed that both the

chambers would evolve a unified strategy on the issues of common interests. Both the chambers would share and exchange all trade-related data for increasing the competitiveness of goods and reducing cost of doing business. LCCI and BCCI would also cooperate in preparation of proposals for economic uplift of the country and would conduct joint research studies to develop industries in Lahore and Bahawalpur.

LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that harmony between the two chambers would help solve the problems being faced by the business community. He said that

the LCCI is taking a number of steps to educate its members on day-by-day economic scenario.

He said that expatriates should be given maximum facilities as they are playing a key role for economic uplift of the country.

President BCCI Javed Iqbal Chaudhry and Senior Vice President Ahmad Bilal said that collaboration between Bahawalpur Chamber and Lahore Chambers of Commerce & Industry would go a long way in resolving the issues being faced by the business community. They said that there is a dire need to boost exports of the country. Genuine issues of export-oriented industries should be resolved at the earliest.

LCCI for controlling surge in dollar price

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry has urged the government to control the surge in dollar price as it would give a new blow to the economy.

LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar and Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad said that surge in dollar price will badly affect manufacturing sector as raw material price and cost of doing business will go up.

They said that devaluation of rupee will cause high inflation and halt growth by hitting all the important

sectors of economy. They said that dollar price will lead to increase in import costs, hike in POL prices etc.”

The LCCI office-bearers said that the govt, Finance Ministry and State Bank need to ascertain the factors weakening the value of rupee and check the possibilities of undue speculations and panic buying. This will help stabilize rupee and restore confidence of the business community.

They said that an unchecked increase in the dollar rates would multiply the cost of doing business

They said that the government should take immediate measures to arrest further devaluation of rupee to avoid more damages to the economy. They said though the weaker rupee benefits the exporters by giving them more rupees per dollar, but this benefit is neutralized by the costly imported inputs of manufacturing sector including textiles thus eroding the financial advantage of a weaker rupee.

The LCCI office-bearers said that if the greenback continues its upward flight, it will certainly inflate import bill besides lowering the competitiveness of Pakistan’s

لیسکو صارفین کو بجلی کی بلا تعلق اور محفوظ سپلائی کے لیے پرعزم ہے: سی ای او

لاہور الیکٹرک سپلائی کمپنی کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر مجاہد پرویز چٹھہ نے لاہور چیمبر کے صدر عرفان اقبال شیخ سے گفتگو میں کہا ہے کہ لیسکو صارفین کو بجلی کی بلا تعلق اور محفوظ سپلائی کے لیے پرعزم ہے جبکہ ڈسٹری بیوشن سسٹم میں مزید بہتری لانا بھی ان کی اولین ترجیحات میں شامل ہے، اس سلسلے میں ہرگز کوئی سمجھوتہ نہیں کیا جائے گا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ پبلک پرائیویٹ پارٹنرشپ کو مزید فروغ دیا جائے گا تاکہ مزید بہتر انداز میں کام کیا اور کاروباری برادری کے مسائل حل کیے جاسکیں۔

لاہور چیمبر کے صدر عرفان اقبال شیخ نے چیف ایگزیکٹو لیسکو عرفان اقبال شیخ کے دوستانہ رویے کی تعریف کرتے ہوئے اس بات سے اتفاق کیا کہ کاروباری برادری کے مسائل حل کرنے کا سب سے بہترین ذریعہ پبلک پرائیویٹ پارٹنرشپ ہی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت ٹرانسمیشن اور ڈسٹری بیوشن سسٹم کو جدت دینے کے لیے لیسکو کو سپورٹ کرے کیونکہ اس کے زیر انتظام شہروں میں بجلی کی طلب بڑھتی جا رہی ہے۔

توانائی کی قیمتوں میں کمی صنعتوں، برآمدات کو تقویت دے گی: لاہور چیمبر

توانائی کی قیمتوں میں کمی صنعت و تجارت، برآمدات اور پھر معیشت کو تقویت دے گی لہذا حکومت ان کی قیمتوں میں کمی کرے تاکہ پاکستانی صنعتوں کی پیداواری لاگت میں کمی لائی جاسکے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار لاہور چیمبر کے صدر عرفان اقبال شیخ نے کاروباری برادری کے وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا۔

لاہور چیمبر کے نائب صدر میاں زاہد جاوید احمد بھی اس موقع پر موجود تھے۔ عرفان اقبال شیخ نے کہا کہ حکومت توانائی کی قیمتوں میں کمی کر کے صنعت و تجارت کو معاشی چیلنجز کا مقابلہ کرنے میں مدد دے، اس سے پیداواری لاگت میں کمی آئے گی اور پاکستانی مصنوعات عالمی منڈی میں زیادہ بہتر مقابلہ کرنے کے قابل ہوں گی۔

لاہور چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر نے کہا کہ انرجی انڈسٹری کا اہم خام مال ہے، اس کی قیمتوں میں کمی سے ٹریڈ اور انڈسٹری کی پیداواری لاگت میں کمی آئے گی اور وہ عالمی منڈی میں بہتر مقام حاصل کر سکیں گی۔ پیداواری لاگت میں کمی سے برآمدات پر اچھے اثرات مرتب ہوں گے۔

روپے کی قدر مستحکم رکھنے کے لیے فوری اقدامات اٹھائے جائیں: لاہور چیمبر

لاہور چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر عرفان اقبال شیخ، سینئر نائب صدر علی حسام اصغر اور نائب صدر میاں زاہد جاوید احمد نے ڈالر کی بڑھتی قیمت پر تشویش کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے حکومت پر زور دیا ہے کہ وہ روپے کی قدر مستحکم رکھنے کے لیے اقدامات اٹھائے۔

ایک بیان میں لاہور چیمبر کے عہدیداروں نے کہا کہ وزارت اور خزانہ، سٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان کو فوری حرکت میں آنا چاہیے تاکہ روپے کی قدر میں کمی کو کنٹرول کیا جاسکے وگرنہ معیشت کو بھاری نقصان ہوگا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ ڈالر کی قیمت میں متواتر اضافہ سے کاروباری شعبہ متاثر اور مہنگائی میں بے تحاشا اضافہ ہوگا اور عام آدمی کی زندگی پر بہت برے اثرات مرتب ہونگے۔ ڈالر کی قیمت میں اضافے بہت سے سنگین مسائل کو جنم دے گا، اس سے درآمدی خام مال مہنگا ہوا ہوگا، آئل امپورٹ بل مزید بڑھ جائے گا جبکہ قرضوں میں بھی از خود اضافہ ہوگا۔

لاہور چیمبر کے عہدیداروں نے کہا کہ وہ فوری طور پر ان تمام عوامل کا جائزہ لے جو روپے کو مسلسل کمزور کر رہے ہیں اور ان وجوہات پر قابو پائے تاکہ روپے کی قدر اور کاروباری برادری کا اعتماد بحال ہو۔

قیمت، سپلائی کے اتار چڑھاؤ کے اثرات سے بچنے کا واحد حل توانائی کے متبادل ذرائع اپنانے سے ممکن ہے: لاہور چیمبر

لاہور چیمبر کے صدر عرفان اقبال شیخ، سینئر نائب صدر علی حسام اصغر اور نائب صدر میاں زاہد جاوید نے کاروباری برادری پر زور دیا ہے کہ وہ توانائی کے متبادل ذرائع اپنائے تاکہ توانائی کی زیادہ قیمتوں اور اس کی سپلائی کے اتار چڑھاؤ کے اثرات سے بچ سکے۔ ایک بیان میں لاہور چیمبر کے عہدیداروں نے کہا کہ توانائی کے متبادل ذرائع پر توجہ دینا اس لیے ضروری ہے کہ دنیا بھر کا انحصار ان ہی پر بڑھ رہا ہے، فوسل فیولز سے حاصل کردہ توانائی مہنگی ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ ماحول کے لئے نقصان دہ ہے۔ سولر پینل، بائیوگیس پلانٹ اور دیگر ذرائع نصب کرنے کی لاگت بہت زیادہ ہے اس کو کم کرنے پر بھی کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ دنیا بھر میں توانائی کے حصول کیلئے گرین ٹیکنالوجی، بائیوگیس اور بائیو فیولز کی پیداوار، کاربن ڈائی آکسائیڈ میں کمی اور ماحول دوست انداز میں پیداواری صلاحیت میں اضافے کیلئے دستیاب ہے حکومت اس سلسلے میں کاروباری برادری سے تعاون کرے۔



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