

## Site industries face gas shortage

KARACHI: The industrial units in Site area remained without gas for 37 days since October 1, 2014, and are still facing the problem.

Giving a breakdown, President Site Association of Industry (SAI) Jawed Bilwani said that there was no gas for eight days during October 2014, followed by nine days in November, 13 days in December and seven days this month so far.

The Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) had assured industrialists for smooth gas flow from this month after suspending gas supply to fertiliser sector but the industries were still facing shortages.

Bilwani said that industries normally require eight pounds per square inch (PSI) of gas pressure but the pressure drops to one to 1.5 PSI thus proving unfeasible to run the units at optimum level.

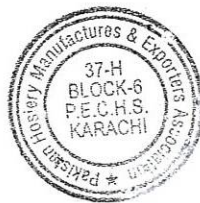
Site comprises more than 50 per cent of textile units. Around 70pc units out of total 3,000 units in Site rely on gas. Total requirement of gas in Site is 80MMCFD.

**LIQUIDITY CRUNCH:** Meanwhile, Bilwani said that exporters are unable to fulfill their export contracts as Rs50 billion against sales tax refunds, customs rebate and DTL (drawback of local taxes and levies) claims is outstanding with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

Bilwani, who is also the chairman of Pakistan Apparel Forum (PAF), alleged that the outstanding amount held by FBR is causing liquidity crunch for exporters who are unable to meet their commitments.

He alleged that it has been FBR's practice to hold back up to 25 per cent amount against sales tax refund claims of exporters.

Bilwani said the FBR high-ups are reluctant to hold meetings with stakeholders who are the biggest foreign exchange earners and highest taxpayers along with job providers in the country.—Staff Reporter



# Low gas pressure badly hits industrial production: Bilwani

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KARACHI: Industrial activities in Site industrial area remained closed for about 37 days during the period from October 2014 to January 16, 2015 due to low gas pressure.

In the month of October 2014, industrial units remained closed for 8 days; in November for 9 days; in December for 13 days and in January 2015 for 7 days.

Site Association of Industry (SAI) Chairman Jawed Bilwani said on Friday that industrial growth was badly affected by low gas supply. "The world has become a global village and in this age of competition, industry can not survive and compete in the world market when it remains closed for such a long period," he observed.

He said that the Site industrial

area was the largest and oldest industrial area of the country, whose foundation stone was laid by father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam. "Being an industrial area providing employment to over 500,000 people, it has the right to get proper gas supply," he added.

Bilwani was of the opinion that if uninterrupted gas supply was not ensured forthwith, the country's exports would be badly affected. "The foreign buyers would definitely turn to other countries if they do not get delivery of their orders on time," he said urging the government to understand seriousness of the issue and take necessary measures to ensure proper gas supply to industries. He said that despite 70 percent share in gas production, industries in Sindh province had badly suffered due to gas

related issues.

The current distribution of gas to Sindh was unjustified, he claimed saying that under Article 158 of the Constitution, the gas producing province had the right to get gas on priority basis.

He expressed concern over 28 gas connections provided to CNG stations from the pipeline exclusively laid down for industrial units in site. He said that the government had miserably failed to provide gas and water to run industrial units efficiently.

Bilwani said there was an impression that a conspiracy had been hatched to close down industrial units in site industrial area. Industries were suffering huge production losses besides the earning of daily wage workers had been badly hit, he added.

