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Power rates for industries to go over Rs17 per unit

Top experts prepare govt strategy for PM's announcement

By Khalid Mustata

ISLAMABAD: Top government and energy decision-makers on Monday put their heads to-gether to discuss the electricity tariff rationalisation plans based on multiple options but rates for industries were almost sure to jump over Rs17 per unit.

The discussions are to be finalised and a report presented to Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif, who is to announce it in the energy policy sometime next week after holding the moot of all heads of parliamentary parties on national security.

Chaired by Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, the energy

tee meeting attended by Ahsan lobal. Federal Minister for Planning and Development. Dr. Musadak Malik, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Shaukat Fayyaz Tareen, and senior officials of the Ministries of Water and Power and Finance worked out the definition of power consumers who deserve subsidised tariff and decided to model the various options on tariff rationalisation under which the burden of subsidy would be passed on to commercial, industrial and bulk consumers, one of the participants of the meeting told The News.

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Linder the tariff rationalisation plan, be said, the tariff will be increased for industrial, commercial and bulk consumers in the current month of July in such a way that they should not go for alternate sources to generate electricity on their

in case they start generating electricity on their own, then the government would suffer loss in terms of revenue.

The domestic consumers use 46 percent of the total subsidy, industrial consumers 29 percent, agriculture 12 percent, commercial consumers seven percent and the AJK and bulk consumers three percent each.

Every month the circular debt increases by Rs50-60 billion and for the current financial year, the circular debt is projected at Rs430 billion if electricity units are produced as generated in the last financial year. In case the generation is increased, then circular debt may cross the Rs500 billion mark. "So the implementation of tariff rationalisation plan is inevitable.

Under the plan, the power tariff is estimated to be hiked

existing Rs9-12 per unit for in- be increased to some extent by dustrial consumers and the raised tariff will vary for commercial consumers with minimuno raise to Rs14-15 per unit and maximum raise to Rs15-16 per unit from the existing tariff of almost Rs12.30 per unit.

Likewise, the tariff for bulk consumers is estimated to increase by Rs4-5 per unit.

The tariff rationalisation for the domestic sector would be implemented somewhere in the month of October. The experts had earlier worked out the consumers who utilise 300 units in a month will be exempted from the raise in the tariff, but in the meeting it was assessed that the huge subsidy of 84 percent is eaten up by the category of consumers falling under the slab of 0-300

In the meeting, it was also mentioned that consumers who consume electricity units up to 300 a month also use the ACs off and on and those who use ACs do not deserve subsidised tariff.

The committee has shown its inclination that consumers who use 200 units should not be affected with the raise in power tariff.

However, the power tariff up to Rs17 per unit from the for 300 units consumer would almost Rs1 per unit.

flowever, the tariff will increase by Rs2-4 for consumers from above 300 units to over 1,000 units

The Nepra had determined the tariff at Rs14.67 per unit whereas the notified tariff stands at Rs8.87 per unit owing to which the huge tariff subsidy of over Rs350 billion was extended last year and this time out of which the government will extend some subsidy to consumers and the burden of remaining subsidy will be passed on to industrial. commercial and bulk consumers.

The press release issued by the finance minister about the energy committee meeting did not mention even a single word about the tariff rationalisation plan.

It just says that as instructed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, a meeting of the Energy Committee was convened under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar at the Finance Minister's Office here on Monday, to review the arrangements made to implement his directions to ensure that no loadmanagement is undertaken during the month of Ramazan

during S Taraweeh

The meeting was informed that uninterrupted supply of electricity would be ensured throughout the country during Ramazan from 0230 hours to 430 hours (Sehar), 1830 hours to 2000 hours (Iftar) and 2100 hours to 2230 hours for (Taraweeh). In this connection, a comprehensive plan chalked out by the Ministry of Water and Power for its implementation was provided to the members of the Energy Committee

The Secretary of Water and Power, Anwar Ahmad Khan, informed the meeting that extensive meetings had been held with the power companies to ensure that the implementation of instructions of the prime minister was carried out in letter and spirit.

Senator Ishaq Dar also informed the meeting that the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) in its meeting held on Thursday, July 4, 2013 approved four power projects having a total generation ca-pacity of 3,511MWs. These include two nuclear energy projects in Karachi, Nandipur Combined Cycle Project in the Punjab and Neelum Jhelum

Sehar, Iftar and Hydropower Project in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The finance minister expressed the hope that with the completion of these projects, not only a sizeable addition of 3,511MWs would be made to the national grid but these would also produce affordable and cheaper electricity.

The finance minister di-rected that these projects. should now be reflected in the projections made by the Ministry of Water and Power which should monitor its progress.

The finance minister said that the government had taken a bold decision and already cleared circular debt of Rs322 billion to settle the outstanding dues of the private power producers. The Ministry of Water and Power should now vigorously pursue the private producers to provide an additional 1,700MWs in the national grid as promised by them, so that a visible relief can be felt by the common man, he emphasized.

The Energy Committee also reviewed the overall supply and demand position in the country and directed the Ministry of Water and Power to address the operational inefficiencies on a war footing.







سوئی سدرن نے صارفین پر 18 رارب رویے کا نیا گیس بم گرادیا

ہے رواں مالی سال میں 18 رار ر مل درآ مدشروع كردياية عوام يرنيا ليهر يم كورث اورآئل ايند ليس ريكو فيشرى اخفار بي اوگرا نے روانی مال سال 1-2013 کے کم امنتاعی جا يرُهُ كُرهُ 1.58 فِي اليم إليم فِي فِي ايو ہو پے ٹی ایم ایم تی ٹی یوا کئے زیادہ قیمت لا کو کی گئی ہے۔ وار کے مفرور سابق چیئر مین تو قیر صاوق پر 'یوالف سے بردھا کر 7ر فیصد کرنے اور آپریٹنگ آ، کی بدنیتی کااس حقیقت سے انداز ولگایا چوہتھ سال حکم متنا عی لینے کے باوجودِ ۔ بد پرلائے میں ناکام ہے۔لاچور ہائیکورٹ 7ر فیصد یوانیب جی کی استدعا اور نارورن کے بورڈ آف ۔اب بوائف کی کو 4.5 فیصد ک آمد تی کو تان آپریٹنگ آمد جے وی ایل کپنی سے 3 مرارب یٹنگ آمدنی قرار دیا تھا۔ ق<u>صلے</u> مررن کیس کے اخراجات کا ح کئے جانے کیساتھ صارفین کوکیسر ۵ 1 کارکروڑ 2 مرالا کھرویے اوا کرنے ہو