

Govt destroying industries in Karachi: PHMEA

By our correspondent

KARACHI: M Jawed Bilwani, central chairman of Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMEA) has said that with inadequate gas supply the government is destroying their factories, according to a statement on Saturday.

Bilwani said that it seemed that the government after causing a disastrous situation in exports of Punjab is out to destroy their exports too.

"Karachi is the economic hub of Pakistan and the contribution of exports of Karachi industries is 50 percent of total exports, while it is being starved to death due to improper and inadequate gas supply," he said. For the last four days, there was low gas pressure, he said.

The gas pressure since last one year is miserable and every Sunday gas was not supplied to the Karachi industries. Apart from every week, for three working days gas pres-

sure was also low, which reduced the production by 40 to 50 percent, resulting in immense losses, especially to the value-added export manufacturing sector, he said.

The PHMEA chairman said that entire production schedule is greatly disturbed, while the worst sufferers were the daily wage workers who remained idle. "Because of delay in meeting the orders, all exporters are compelled to make air shipments, which costs huge amounts of money," he

said.

As a result of this miserable situation, 25 to 30 hosiery dyeing units have closed down within eight to 10 months, while 30 to 40 knitwear stitching units have been compelled to close down.

"It is imperative that Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) supplies sufficient gas to the industries in Karachi so that their production of export goods is not hampered and they would be saved from disaster," he added.

