

19/9/2008



# اقتصادی ترقی کے فروغ کیلئے توانائی کے متبادل ذرائع استعمال میں لائے جائیں بیانیہ

عالمی بینک کی پیشکش سے استفادہ کرتے ہوئے تھرکول منصوبے کو پائیدار بنانے تک پہنچایا جائے۔ چیئرمین عرفان قیصر اور دیگر عہدیداروں کی "تسبیح" سے گفتگو

پاکستانی عوام اور ملکی صنعت کیلئے نہیں قیمت نوت ہیں۔ انہوں نے پاکستانی حکومت پر زور دیا ہے کہ عالمی بینک کی پیشکش سے استفادہ کرتے ہوئے جلد از جلد تھرکول کو بجلی بنانے کیلئے زیادہ سے زیادہ سود مند بنایا جائے تاکہ یہ شعبہ سرمایہ کاروں کی دلچسپی کا مرکز بنے۔ عوام کو لوڈ شیڈنگ کے عذاب سے نجات ملے اور ملکی صنعت کو وافر سستی بجلی مہیا ہو سکے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت عالمی منڈی میں تیل کی کم قیمت ہونے کے ساتھ یہاں پر بھی مزید بڑوں کی قیمت میں کمی کی جائے۔

کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پٹرولنگاری اور فراڈز اور بے لگام تجارتی خسارہ جیسے بڑے چیلنج درپیش ہیں۔ ان حالات میں اس امر کی اشد ضرورت ہے کہ توانائی کے متبادل ذرائع کو عمل میں لایا جائے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سستی بجلی بنانے اور ملکی ضروریات پوری کرنے کیلئے کالاباغ ڈیم موثر ترین ذریعہ ثابت ہو سکتا ہے۔ تاہم معیشت کیلئے حیات بخش منصوبہ کو سیاست کی جھینٹ چڑھا کر سرد خانہ میں ڈال دیا گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ صحرا سے تھرکول کے سینے میں دفن کوئلہ کے وسیع و عریض ذخائر

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) توانائی کی کمی پاکستان کے اقتصادی مسائل کی وجہ ہے۔ تھرکول ذرائع سے بجلی حاصل کرانے کیلئے کثیر زر مبادلہ خرچ کر کے تیل امپورٹ کرنا پڑتا ہے جس کی وجہ سے درآمدی بل میں بے تحاشا اضافہ اور بجلی کی گرانی اور کم پائی سے ٹیکسٹائل سمیت ہزاروں صنعتی یونٹ بند ہو چکے ہیں۔ انٹرنیشنل مارکیٹ میں پاکستانی مصنوعات مقابلے کی سکت کھو چکی ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار بیانیہ کے چیئرمین عرفان قیصر 'واکس' چیئرمین شاہزیب اور اقبال بیگ نے "تسبیح" سے گفتگو



عرفان قیصر، اقبال بیگ اور خواجہ شاہزیب "تسبیح" سے گفتگو کر رہے ہیں۔

19/9/2008

# Nation

## PIAF hails WB interest in Thar coal project

OUR STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE- Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF), while welcoming the World Bank offer to develop Thar Coal reserves, has expressed the hope that the government would accept the offer, as the exploration of coal would ensure generation of cheaper electricity besides bridging 5000MW shortfall being faced by the country.

In a joint statement issued on Thursday, the PIAF Chairman Irfan Qaiser Sheikh and Vice Chairman Khawaja Shahzeb Akram said that despite having huge coal reserves the total power generation through means other than hydle and thermal is very small and if with the help of World Bank, the existing huge coal reserves are tapped and used for power generation, the electricity situation in the country could register huge increase.

The PIAF office-bearers said that due to shortage of energy, the industrial activity had already slowed down considerably and if the alternate resources were not utilized the burden for the industrial sector would be unbearable.

## BUSINESS

# RECORDER

## Piaf welcomes WB offer to develop Thar Coal reserves

RECORDER REPORT

LAHORE Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF), while welcoming the World Bank offer to develop Thar Coal reserves, hoped the government will accept this offer as the exploration of coal will help generate cheaper electricity to bridge demand and supply gap of 5000MW.

The PIAF Chairman Irfan Qaiser Sheikh and Vice Chairman Khawaja Shahzeb Akram in a joint statement said that despite the huge coal deposits, the electricity being produced through different means other than hydle and thermal, is very small.

If the World Bank, the existing huge coal reserves are tapped and used for power generation, the elec-

tricity situation in the country would substantially increased, they added.

Moreover, they said that due to shortage of energy, the industrial activity had already slow down considerably and if alternate resources were not utilised, the industry would be forced to bear additional burden.

The Kalabagh Dam could not be built for want of consensus in all the four provinces thus the government should immediately accept the World Bank offer so that the manufacturing sector could be able to have its due place in the global market.

Because of the shortage of energy, the textile sector was the biggest loser and the country's total exports registered a sharp decline.

# DAWN

## LCCI demands economic plan

By Our Reporter

LAHORE, Sept 18: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has urged the government to come up with an economic plan to check fast depletion of foreign exchange reserves, depreciation of rupee and control the widening current account deficit for restoring the confidence of businessmen.

LCCI President Muhammad Ali Mian demanded, in a statement on Thursday, formulation of an economic recovery plan because the foreign exchange reserves had gone down to \$8.91 billion while rupee exchange value was touching the historic low at Rs77.60 versus dollar. The current account deficit had increased by \$2.5 billion during July-August mainly owing to a slowdown in exports and rising trade deficit and slow foreign exchange inflows.

He said the economic plan should be prepared in consultation with stake-holders as the plan formulated without businessmen's input would not give desired results as had happened in the past.

He said the fast falling exchange value of rupee had not only worsened the balance of

payment position but had also raised the burden of Pakistan's foreign debt and debt service liability. It would, he said, upset all the cost-price relationships in the economy, lead to galloping inflation, and would stall many ongoing projects owing to rising cost as the industries were heavily dependent on imported raw materials for industrial and capital goods and components. The cut in rupee value would raise industrial costs and reduce the intensity of capacity utilisation.

He said persistent decline in rupee value would cause a contraction in economic activity and consequential slide down in income tax receipts would raise the burden of foreign debt overnight. The government could not stop smuggling as long as black-market transactions in foreign exchange continued. Devaluation of rupee meant devaluation of Pakistani labour and talent in the international market who sent foreign exchange through home remittances. Devaluation would make Pakistan lose heavily both as seller and as a buyer and would make no good substitute for remedial changes in economic policies and developmental planning.

The chamber president said the govern-

ment should not cut its expenditure but also exercise strong discipline over all unproductive expenditure, whether it be the public sector or the private sector.

The government should also effectively utilise the human resources, which was abundant in Pakistan and was under-utilised.

**WB OFFER:** The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front has called upon the government to accept the World Bank's offer to develop Thar coal reserves to ensure generation of cheaper electricity for bridging 5000MW shortfall.

PIAF chairman Irfan Qaiser Sheikh said the WB offer was not only appropriate but also timely because power generation through coal could help resolve the power crisis prevailing in the country. Despite having huge coal reserves the total power generation through means other than hydle and thermal was very small. If the coal reserves were tapped and used for power generation, the electricity shortage in the country could be controlled.

He said utilisation of the alternate energy resources had become the need of the hour because the industrial activity had slowed down due to shortage of power.