

 Tuesday, July 30, 2013 - Faisalabad ♦ State Minister for Water and Power Abid Sher Ali said the prime minister would soon inaugurate five to eight thousand megawatt projects of electricity very soon. Addressing an Iftar dinner hosted in his honour by Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporter Association (PHMA) here he said the government would review the IPPs agreements.

♦ He said the PML-N was voted to power as previous government was failed to deliver. ♦ We are fully conscious of this fact and Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is holding daily the meetings on energy issue, ♦ he said and added that detailed plans were at the anvils to provide much needed relief to domestic, industrial, commercial and agricultural consumers. He said the prime minister had also inked a number of agreements with China during his recent visit and a special cell had been set up in the Prime Minister ♦s House to monitor the implementation on these agreement particularly relating to the energy sector.

♦ Pakistan is passing through a crucial stage and we cannot afford even single hour loadshedding. We have to control it for our economic survival and in this context 25 to 30 years planning is being made to meet the future needs of energy, ♦ he added. Abid Sher Ali said: ♦ Power theft is yet another task and we have to get rid of it, however, we would not spare power pilferers but at the same time no genuine consumer would be harassed.

♦ He said a campaign against the power pilferers had been launched and cases had been registered against 470 people. He said there had 40 per cent power pilferage in Hyderabad and Sukkur power distribution companies, similarly, 64 per cent pilferage had in Quetta power distribution company. He said 1600 tube wells were being run with stolen electricity and no body took action against them.

♦ We can generate 960 megawatts electricity from Neelum-Jhelum project but there is no transmission line to carry this electricity to load centers. He said: ♦ We require at least two and a half years to lay these lines. ♦ He said the prime minister would soon announce a comprehensive energy policy by taking all provinces into confidence. He assured that demands of PHMA would be honored within available resources.

♦ APP
♦ Pak Observer