

 Govt to give up to Rs 7/unit subsidy for electricity consumers

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Pervaiz Rashid said on Monday the government will give subsidy of Rs 6.0 to Rs 7.0 on every unit and Rs 170 billion for the electricity consumers using 200 units per month.

He said it has been decided to end the difference between the cost and sale of electricity.

Currently electricity is being generated at the rate of Rs 15 per unit and sold at Rs 8.0 per unit, he added.

He said the decision has been taken by the government to withdraw this subsidy but this facility will continue for the consumers using up to 200 units.

The minister said efforts are being made to produce cheap electricity. The process has been started to install new coal-fired power plants and convert the furnace-fired power plants to coal.

Commissioning of coal-related projects will help bring down the prices of electricity. Similarly, he said the government is focusing on hydel sources but completion of these projects will take six to seven years time.

Rashid said that friendly countries including China have assured to help Pakistan cope with the energy crisis.

He stated that China has agreed to establish four coal-fired power plants having capacity of 600 megawatts (MW) each at Gadani, the coastal area of Balochistan.

The minister said electricity generation has reached record level of 16,000 MW due to the steps of the present government.

He said 12,000 to 13,000 MW electricity was being produced when the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz came into power and we have increased the generation to record 16,000 MW.

Replying to the question about Khunjerab-Kashgar economic corridor, he said the Chinese experts will visit Pakistan soon after Eidul Fitr to make further headway on this important project.

He said the completion of this project will usher in a new era of progress and prosperity in Gwadar and Balochistan.

He said the project will generate economic activity and open new job opportunities besides giving boost to local industries.

Courtesy: Daily Times