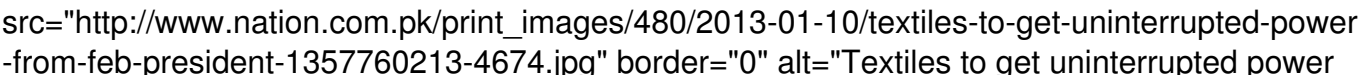


## Textiles to get uninterrupted power from Feb: President | Forex, Pakistan

Written by Administrator

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**LAHORE** - President Asif Zardari has assured the textile sector of implementing the decision of 16 hours a day power supply to industry in Punjab in letter and spirit and directed Secretary for Ministry of Water & Power Nargis Sethi and Dr Asim Hussain to immediately implement the decision.

During his meeting with a delegation of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) at Bilawal House on Tuesday night, the president assured the Aptma delegation of uninterrupted power supply for 24 hours a day from 1st of February and instructed the Ministry of Water & Power to make necessary arrangements to this effect.

President said that the textile sector is the mainstay of Pakistan's exports and is a symbol of Pakistan's manufacturing excellence. He said that all efforts are being made to address the energy crisis so that production chain, employment and exports could be saved from adverse effects of power shortage.

The APTMA delegation included among others Gohar Ejaz, Ahsan Bashir, Mian Wisal Ahmed Monnoo, Zahid Rashid Khawaja, Shahzad Ali Khan, Imran Aslam, Sheikh Muhammad Akbar, Mahmood Ihsan, S M Tanveer, Asif Inam, Muhammad Yasin Siddik, Nadeem Maqbool and Tariq Saud.

Minister for Water and Power Chaudhry Ahmed Mukhtar, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Asim Hussain, Secretary Water and Power Nargis Sethi, Chief Executive Lahore Electric Supply Corporation Muhammad Saleem and other senior officials were also present during the meeting.

According to a press release issued by Aptma here on Wednesday, the president while highlighting the importance of the textile industry lauded the critical role being played by the entrepreneurs in developing a self-reliant production chain in the textile sector and commended the private sector for the development of the industry.

Chief Executive LESCO briefed the meeting about the status of power supply to the textile sector in light of Prime Minister's directives for ensuring availability of electricity to the sector.

Various issues related to Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) and the cotton production during the current year were also discussed during the meeting.

Earlier, the APTMA chairman apprised the President about prevailing crisis in the Punjab-based textile industry due to short supply of energy. He told the President that 75pc of the textile industry is Punjab-based and only for three days throughout December till date gas was available to the mills there. Meanwhile, a complete shutdown of electricity supply from December 22 until 1st of January crippled the Punjab-based textile industry altogether. Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf intervened and directed the Ministry of Water & Power to restore electricity for 16 hours a day to the textile industry in Punjab. However, these clear-cut instructions were also not being implemented by the DISCOs and electricity was being provided not more than eight to 10 hours a day till date with frequent interruptions. As a result, over 30pc capacity of textile industry in Punjab is in doldrums, hitting hard the industry's capacity of earning a billion dollars per month.

Courtesy: Nation