

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Industries & Pakistan
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PRESS RELEASE

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Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that the Ministry of Industries & Production has a key role to play in creating an enabling environment for industrial growth as Pakistan, with a consumer market of 170 million people, abundance of raw materials, cheap labour and entrepreneurship, is endowed with all the requisites to climb the ladder of industrialization.

The Prime Minister expressed these views while chairing a presentation at the Ministry of Industries and Production here today. It may be mentioned that Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani is the first Chief Executive of the county who visited the Ministry of Industries in 25 years.

Expressing concern over the past practices which did not produce desired results, the Prime Minister underscored the need for an early formulation of an Industrial Policy which is consistent, holistic and pragmatic in approach and can capitalize the real potential of the country thus generating jobs, maximizes the national output and benefits the poor by putting indigenous materials and labour to their best use. He called upon the need for consolidation and up-gradation of industry while ensuring good governance and transparency to make it competitive and value-added.

The Prime Minister said that only a well-designed industrial policy backed by appropriate implementation strategies could address the inherent problems of the industrial sector which at present is reflecting a plagued picture due to low productivity, poor and unreliable infrastructure, unskilled labour force, low value addition, lack of quality standards and poor technology.

The Prime Minister directed the Ministry of Industries to monitor the performance of various companies and organizations working under it and asked the Ministry to justify their existence by showing results on ground.

The Prime Minister while expressing concern over the output of Pakistan Steel, directed the Ministry to come up with a viable business plan to make the Steel Mills a productive Industrial Unit that is financially sound and economically sustainable.

Underlining the importance of SMEDA for the promotion of SMEs in the country, the Prime Minister stressed that SMEDA has to show results that are measurable and can be seen by everybody. He further called upon for a more supportive role of SMEDA in the further development of SMEs as this would help in industrialization, job generation and income enhancement. He said Industrialization in the country is not only necessary to generate jobs and economic activities for the poor and unemployed youth and meet industrial needs of 170 million people but also to claim our rightful share in the global market.

The Prime Minister directed the Ministry to achieve the target of setting up of Utility Stores in each Union Council. The Prime Minister was apprised that 300 new Utility Stores would be opened shortly for which first tranche of Rs. 300 million has been received and an

additional Rs.300 million have been allocated in the next budget. Regarding complaints about supply and sale of sub-standard consumer items in the Utility Stores, he further directed the Corporation to professionalize its working and ensure both the quality and quantity of consumer's supplies available at the doorstep of the poor.

On the distribution of fertilizers in the country, The Prime Minister directed the Ministry to improve its performance so that past experience should not be repeated regarding pricing and availability of fertilizers. For this, the Prime Minister constituted a committee consisting of Ministers of Industries, Agriculture, Commerce and Advisor Finance to look into the modalities for ensuring efficient distribution process.

During the meeting, it was observed that in order to reinvigorate the functioning of PIDC, private sector involvement is a must besides linking of various small technological institutions with some major institutions while focusing on Research and Development.

Secretary Industries & Production in his presentation briefed the meeting about the role and functioning of the Ministry. He informed the meeting that the Ministry is playing a lead role in formulating and implementing a comprehensive strategy for rapid industrialization in the country which aims at maximizing job creation and enhancing Pakistan's international competitiveness. He further apprised the meeting of the Ministry's new role from a controlling authority to a facilitator, enabler & custodian of industry.

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance, Mr. Shaukat Tareen was also present in the meeting and gave fruitful thoughts which would help in boosting the industrial sector.