

23RD February, 2011.

PRESS NOTE

The industrial fraternity, as a whole, was delighted when the Hon'ble Chief Minister, at the time of taking over the stewardship of the State retained the power portfolio with himself. There was then a general feeling amongst this class of society that power scenario will now improve particularly in the industrial sector. The Industrial Area, Gangyal, being the Mother Estate of industrial units is as old as 35 years. At that point of time 11 KVA Electric System was put into operation for a small number of units existing in 1970s, the number of which has now grown to over 600. But for all these years this system has never been upgraded, which results in frequent power cuts in the Industrial Area. Long back, Association of Industries, Gangyal had succeeded in persuading Chief Engineer, M&RE Jammu to send a proposal to Chief Engineer, Planning & Design for the upgradation of this System which is gathering dust, despite the Govt. of India having provided sufficient funds for the purpose. To make the matters worse, 6.5 MVA load is also supplied to domestic areas from 33 KVA Receiving Station, Gangyal thereby resulting in acute power shortage. This lackadaisical attitude of PDD was seriously viewed by the AOI members headed by S. Tejwant Singh Reen, President and this issue, coupled with other related power problems was brought to the notice of higher authorities who gave on spot instructions to Power Dev. Deptt. for solving all the problems in respect of Industrial Area, Gangyal. The Association of Industries then followed it up with letters and representation and meetings as well. Regretfully nothing positive has happened and industrial sector continue to suffer, as far as Industrial Area, Gangyal is concerned.

Time and again, unscheduled power cuts are resorted to by SLDC by snapping 132 KV line from Gladni. The PDD has 90 MG load existing at 132 Grid Station Miran Sahib and suggestion was made to Chief Engineer, System & Operation to snap power from Miran Sahib, whenever necessary instead of Gladni which would not affect the power supply to Industrial Area, Gangyal. This decision was taken in a meeting presided over by Principal Secretary, P.D.D on 17.02.2010 that henceforth power supply from Gladni shall not be snapped but would be cut from Miran Sahib Station if and when required.

Similarly, the oldest Industrial Estate, Digiana established way back in 1960s is facing the worst power crisis due to frequent power cuts. Snapping of 11 KVA lines and repeated faults at 33 KVA Receiving Station is a routine affair and due to this there is a daily production loss of around Rs. 20.00 to 25.00 lacs to industrial units of Gangyal & Digiana. This whole system needs to be replaced / augmented.

It has been due to personal persuasion of Hon'ble Chief Minister that Govt. of India has allowed subsidy on expansion of capacities by existing units but due to power problem no unit volunteers to

go in for expansion. This directly, therefore, adversely hits the industrial sector which is one of the important and strongest pillar of economic stability. There is a dire need to revamp the whole system which would ensure uninterrupted quality power supply to Industrial Area, Gangyal and Digiana as the industrial units located at Gangyal in these two oldest Estates have been established by sons of the soil. The 132 Grid Station has got to be dedicated exclusively to industrial sector, by removing power supply to domestic areas from the said Station.

We believe that there is a strong bureaucratic coterie in the Power Dev. Deptt. who scuttle every proposal for improving power scenario and thus by default or design try to create an impression of not caring to the orders of higher authorities. We requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister to ponder over this problem as to why the PDD officers are always found wanting in implementing the orders / instructions of their seniors in reforming and improving the power situation. Do they have any self interest in this?

(VIRENDRA JAIN)
General Secretary