

newspapers criticise the Government. Freedom of press is imperative for the functioning of democracy in India. 'Daily Ajit' published from Jalandhar has also been writing against the Government for which the newspaper management is being discriminated and harassed by the police.

Even when the news released by the UNI and PTI is published, the paper is forced to delete the columns.

Any discrimination against any particular paper which carries news against the Government is unfortunate.

I request the Central Government ensure uniform policy for all the newspapers and check discriminatory attitude against papers who are bold enough to write against the administration.

**(iii) Need to open more coking gas agencies in the District of Jhansi and Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHORTI(Jhansi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Lalitpur area of Jhansi district in U.P are facing a lot of difficulties due to prevailing crisis of LPG (cooking gas) in the area. The main reason of this crisis is that the Home Delivery System is not working properly as it should work. As a result of it the consumers are not getting their cooking gas in time. The Home Delivery System does not cover the area of Mauranipur of district Jhansi. So the cooking gas is not available to all the consumers. It is therefore requested that the Home Delivery System should be strictly enforced particularly in Jhansi, Lalitpur and Mauranipur. Besides, 15000 new gas connections in Jhansi, 5000 in Lalitpur and 2500 in Mauranipur which are pending for the last 10 years should immediately be released and the number of agencies should also be increased because the existing number of Agencies is inadequate to meet the growing demand of the popula-

tion. It is necessary to open agencies in Chirgaon, Ranipur, Barua Sagar, Gursarai and Maahrauni and Talvehat in Lalitpur district in order to overcome the prevailing crisis.

**(iv) Need to ensure supply of its share of Ganga-Yamuna Water to Rajasthan**

SHRIMATI KRISHMENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) (Bharatpur): A number of cities and towns in Rajasthan have been facing acute water problem for a long time. This problem was aggravated particularly in Bharatpur district due to the salty ground water in that region.

The State Government had got the Gurgaon canal constructed to solve the irrigation and drinking water problem. But since the State Government has failed to get its share of the Ganga-Yamuna water, the problem has not so far been solved. In addition to that, due to non-availability of water from Agra canal of Uttar Pradesh in time the situation in Deeg, Kumher, and rural areas of Bharatpur Tehsil as taken a serious turn. The problem of drinking water particularly in Kumher and Deeg areas can prove fatal at any time.

I would like to urge the Central Government to take appropriate decision on this issue of public importance at the earliest to provide relief to the people and to enhance Rajasthan to get its due share of water.

**(v) Need for an immediate survey by Central Government of flood affected areas in Rajmahal, Bihar**

SHRISIMON MARANDI(Rajmahal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through this House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the problems of the people living at the Ganga coast in my constituency Rajmahal under Sahibganj district in Bihar. Ganga river flows to Bhagalpur through Rajmahal, Sahibganjm, Pakad and many other blocs. Due to this, the flood water is accumulated in

*Business Advisory Committee*

th coastal areas and soil erosion is taking place rapidly, ultimately giving rise to many serious epidemics. Flood affected proper have been finding it difficult to protect their lives and property. Recently when I visited the place, the local residents wanted a survey team to be sent by the Central Government to prepare to report on the problems of the local residents.

Therefore, through this August House, I would like to urge upon the Government to send a central team to my constituency Rajmahal and get a report in regard to the problems being faced by the flood affected people. The Government should take immediate necessary steps to check the soil erosion, to provide financial aid to the flood affected people and make arrangements for the fodder of their cattle. Above all, immediate effective measures should also be taken to check the epidemics breaking rapidly in this region.

**(vi) Need for early Completion of Dihari Hydro Power Plant in Rohtas District, Bihar**

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH(Bikramgani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to inform that a Hydro Power Plant in Dihari area of Rohats district is being set up by the Central Government. This plant will generate 15 Magawatts of electricity. Its construction was started in 1987 and was expected to be completed in March 1991. This unit is supposed to fulfill the electricity requirements of Rohtas and Babhna districts which have been facing a Constant power crisis. However, the project has not been completed so far. Due to delay in its completion, a large amount of money is going waste.

Therefore, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Power to this problem and urge him to give orders for an early completion of the project.

**(vii) Need for continuous exploratory activities in Orissa**

[English]

SHRISIVAJIPATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): Sir, Oil India Limited, a Government of India enterprise, commenced its offshore petroleum exploration ventura in June, 1979 with the setting up of Bay Exploration Project at Bhubaneswar. Since then, Exploratory Drilling activity has been conducted both offshore and on-shore and a total of 18 wells had been drilled until mid 1983.. Subsequently various offshore seismic surveys were carried out utilising the best available inland and overseas technology. The prognosis of the interpreted data was favourable and Oil India Limited decided to go for another two wells drilling programme and the same was put up before the Government of India for approval in 1991. But as yet nothing has happened. For four years, no exploratory drilling activity could be carried out. Now as it seems with a view to close down the project, the Oil India Ltd., is contemplating to reduce its staff drastically.

This is done at a time when our country imports he bulk of its crude oil requirements and therefore, continued exploratory activity for the augmentation of our petroleum reserves for attaining self-sufficiency is of prime importance.

Closure of the Bay Exploration Project especially when the geological prognostics are very indicative of the hydrocarbon in the onshore and offshore areas surveyed, would certainly be a blow to the country as well as to the State of Orissa.

In would, therefore, urge upon the Government for continuance of the exploratory activities in Orissa.

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MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned for Lunch and would met again at 2.45 p.m.