

[Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit]

State has incurred a burden of a large overdraft of Rs. 82.00 crores.

Since the end of 1980, the State Government has been pressing for advance Central assistance of Rs. 53 crores so as to pay off the overdraft.

May I earnestly request the Central Government to sanction assistance as much as possible to Madhya Pradesh immediately and to send a Review Team to assess the situation and finalise the financial burdens of the State, due to which several development programmes, schemes and projects are held up. I hope the Government would awaken to the situation without further delay to reduce the hardships of the poor suffering people, particularly of the scarcity areas and backward regions.

(iii) REPORTED REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE TO HINDI NEWS AGENCIES

श्री राम बिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : सम्प्रति महोदय, हिन्दी संवाद समितियों के प्रति सरकार के उपेक्षापूर्ण रुख के कारण उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति दिन-प्रति-दिन खराब होती जा रही है और वे अभी तक मार्च महीने का वेतन भी अपने कर्मचारियों को नहीं दे सकी हैं ।

सरकार के भेदभाव का पता इसी से चलता है कि जहां सरकार आकाशवाणी एवं दूरदर्शन को, समाचार सेवा के बदले अंग्रेजी संवाद समितियों को 70 लाख रुपये सालाना प्रदान करती है, वहीं हिन्दी संवाद समितियों को केवल दस लाख रुपया देती है । बार-बार सदन एवं सदन के बाहर सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित किया गया, लेकिन सरकार पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा । संवाद समितियों को समाचार सेवा के लिए दिये जाने वाले शुल्क का फार्मूला अगस्त 1980 में समाप्त

हो चुका है, लेकिन सरकार जानबूझकर नया फार्मूला बनाने में देर कर रही है जिससे हिन्दी संवाद समितियों का आर्थिक संकट बढ़ता जा रहा है ।

खेद है कि नया फार्मूला घोषित करने के बजाय गत एक अप्रैल से विगत पिछले तीन वर्षों से कर्मचारियों के वेतन के एक हिस्से के रूप में मिलने वाली आर्थिक सहायता में भी सरकार ने 25 प्रतिशत कटौती कर दी जिससे इनका घाटा और बढ़ गया है ।

अतः सरकार से अनुरोध है कि शुल्क का नया फार्मूला शीघ्र घोषित किया जाये और आर्थिक सहायता में की गई कटौती को भी वापिस किया जाये ।

(iv) EXPLORATION OF OIL AND GAS IN NARASAPUR AREA OF ANDHRA PRADESH.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY (Amalapuram): Sir, the planned efforts to explore oil and gas at Linga-boyincherala and Y. B. Lanka in Narasapur area in Andhra Pradesh yielded very good results and raised high hopes for the rich deposits of oil and gas in both off-shore and on-shore around Narasapur. The expectations were further strengthened when it was officially declared, source reveal, that the Godavari basin might prove to be another Bombay High. Later it was stated that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission had drilled two wells in Godavari basin without any success. Again it has been announced that notable achievement of the off-shore drilling in 1980 was the discovery of hydro-carbons in the structures of Godavari basin. It has been however, stated again that the Godavari basin is very rocky and muddy and therefore deep drilling had become very difficult. The official announcement declared recently that the Government may go in for foreign consultancy for the exploration of oil in the Godavari basin and financial assistance has also been sought from the World Bank for this purpose.