

[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) : संसद प्रति 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 जहाँ 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 Lingaboyincherala 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, sources 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.

Besides, the Norwegian Rig which was initially employed for drilling at Narasapur has been withdrawn to divert it to other places. The Government has been evincing great interest in carrying out explorations for oil and gas wherever indications are available except in Narasapur. These contrasting versions very frequently pouring in the press have created great confusion in the minds of the people of Andhra Pradesh in general and the people of Godavari district in particular. Our need for oil and consequent expenditure is increasing. We may have to pay Rs. 6,000 crores in 1981 as against Rs. 1,500 crores in 1978. In view of the utter confusion and uncertainty about the attitude of the Government so far shown in action in conducting oil explorations, particularly at Narasapur, I would strongly urge upon the Government to declare a time-bound programme for exploring oil and gas at Narasapur and implement it with all seriousness and sincerity.

(v) DEMAND FOR LINKING RATNAGIRI CITY WITH BOMBAY BY AIR SERVICE

**SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR** (Ratnagiri): Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to mention the following matter of public importance:—

Ratnagiri city which is the headquarters of the district is a small town in deep waters on the west coast of Konkan in Maharashtra State. This district is a long narrow strip between the ghats and the sea, and hills rise to the sky. The Konkan Littoral presents great scenic beauty because hills march with beaches. The sea is the bluest of blues like bluegratto in Capri in Italy and hills run sky-high. There is a great recreational and tourism potential in Ratnagiri, provided tourism infrastructure is built up. This district is not linked up with rail line nor is there any sea transport facility worth the name. The Maharashtra Government constructed an air-strip at Ratnagiri some years back by spending lakhs of rupees with a hope that the Central Government would start operating

air service between Bombay and Ratnagiri. This is the only air-strip in the entire area of Konkan. Private operators by name Golden Son Aviation Company was permitted to operate air service between Bombay and Ratnagiri and the said service was in operation during 1977-79. Due to escalation of fuel prices, the service has been discontinued. It is reported that the permission sought by these private operators to import a new type of plane which would consume considerably less quantity of fuel has not been granted by this Government. Under the circumstances, I request the Government to give all necessary assistance to private operators who are willing to operate flights on this route or start Indian Airlines service between Bombay and Ratnagiri or at least direct the Indian Airlines to connect Ratnagiri to Bombay by a flight which operates between Bombay and Belgaum.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I think, your poetic expression will have some influence on the Government.

**SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR:** At least I will try that way now.

(vi) DEMAND FOR REOPENING OF A BRANCH OF NATIONAL INSURANCE CORPORATION IN BHEELWARA, RAJASTHAN

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS** (Bheelwara): Under rule 377, I rise the following matter for Government's consideration and action:—

Bheelwara town in Rajasthan is developing fast industrially though it is still a backward area district. Around this town exists a sea of mines providing necessary raw materials for establishment of small scale industrial units. In recent years, based on these raw materials, many small scale industrial units have come up. Besides, this town also has a few big textile units.

In view of all these considerations, a decision was taken for the establishment of a branch of General Insurance Society, now part of the National Insurance Corporation. However, this