



(Press Release)

Union Govt should present an Interim Budget: KSSP

The Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad (KSSP) demands that the Government of India should present an interim budget to bring succour to the people who are torn between death and misery due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The first financial package declared by the government amounts only to 1% of the GDP. This is too inadequate to meet the dire needs of the country at present. A second package, expected to follow suit, is not declared yet. Following the example of several developed countries, India should also allocate at least 10% of its GDP for Covid-19 treatment, rehabilitation and other measures.

The central government has not released the long due share of national revenue to the states. Kerala has yet to receive Rs 3000 crore which is due to state as GST compensation. The states are forced to bear the financial burden of Covid-19 outbreak. With the lock down brought to effect all over the country, Central government has the paramount responsibility to ensure livelihood and relief of the starving and poor multitudes of the country. Unfortunately this has not been in the case.

At the beginning of the lock down, the central government has instructed migrant workers to stay they were then. Millions of migrant workers are wallowing in hunger and untold miseries all over the country. The onus for taking care of them has fallen on the shoulders of the respective state governments. The union government has to take immediate steps to financially assist the state governments in this regard.

Country is going through a war-like situation. In this unusual circumstance, Central government should raise the annual borrowing limit for the states from the Reserve Bank of India. The public as well as the private sector industries should be made to contribute to the economy in addition of the mandatory Corporate social responsibility (CSR) fund. The government should also take necessary action so as to enable the states to receive contributions from the CSR funds to the state distress relief funds.

The KSSP urges the central government to brace up to face this unprecedented situation by incorporating pro-people welfare measures in its economic and fiscal policies and to prepare and present an interim budget which will be giving relief to the destitute millions. We also appeal to the people of India that proper democratic pressure should be exerted on the government for this.

A.P Muralidharan

President

K Radhan

General Secretary