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**Title: Regarding generation of Employment opportunities in the Country**

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** The COVID-19 pandemic in India has very severely impacted, rather negatively, the employment figures of India since early 2020. The most intriguing scene which gave me unspeakable pain is that while crossing over hundreds of kilometres on feet along the national highways, labourers lost their nationality. These Indian nationals did not get any help from the Government on the way. Further, the unemployment rate will be around 12% in May 2022 which translates into a loss of job by 1 crore people during the period due to the 2nd wave of corona pandemic. The unemployment rate stands at 12.4%, urban 15.1% and rural 11.2% in June 2022. The manufacturing and engineering sectors have largely been affected by the lockdown during the 2nd wave. Studies have found that nearly half of the formal salaried workers moved into informal work, either as self-employed (30 per cent), casual wage (10 per cent) or informal salaried (9 per cent) workers, between late 2019 and late 2022 and there was a decline in their income level as well. The government totally failed to tackle the serious issue. I request the Government to take immediate suitable measures to generate more employment opportunities in the country.