

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding framing of guidelines with regard to protection of all the workers in the gig economy.

SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM (SIVAGANGA): Sir, technology creates new opportunities. Today we have something called the ‘gig economy’. A gig worker is somebody who has a non-traditional relationship between him and the employer because of technology. In India, there are 15 million workers in the gig economy and it is bound to grow to 25 million and, perhaps, 100 million in the long-term.

There are companies which are valued in billions, which operate in this gig economy. The companies like Swiggy, Dunzo, Zomato, Uber, Ola are all valued in billions of dollars. Their valuation is based on a principle called ‘TAT’, that is, turn around time – the shorter the turn around time of them in providing the service, the greater the valuation is. So, we have delivery companies which promise delivery of either food or groceries or any product within 10 to 30 minutes.

This delivery is done by workers who are not employees of the company. They drive their personal two-wheelers but do a commercial delivery carrying a huge weight in their carrier or in pillion seat. But there is no protection for these workers. There is no classification whether these vehicles are meant for commercial delivery. The insurance companies refuse to give them compensation if there is an accident.

There have been accidents where there have been fatalities. In Zomato, a person called Salil Tripathi died while making a delivery. So, these delivery companies need to be regulated. They cannot have this unrealistic and unreasonable delivery time, which is putting the life of these people in great peril.

I urge upon the Government to come up with some guidelines with regard to protection for all the workers in the gig economy. Thank you.