

Title: Need to solve unemployment problem particularly in rural areas.

DR. N. VENKATASWAMY (TIRUPATI): Sir, agriculture is the main occupation of India which depends upon the vagaries of monsoons. It is an unorganised sector which is not able to put up a fight to redress its grievances effectively in the Government. It is not possible to provide employment to rural unemployed youth in the Government sector or in any other sector. Day-by-day unemployment is becoming a big problem and rural youth are being drawn towards naxalism very easily. Hence, the Government should think sincerely and seriously and find out a way. The Government also announced that one crore employment opportunities will be provided to the unemployed youth in general and rural youth in particular. I am very happy that agriculture is being considered on top-priority by providing 60 per cent of the total budget allocation for this sector. In spite of all, the number of rural unemployed youth is growing year by year and contributing a lot to the stream of unemployment situation in India. Therefore, it is suggested that to supply a bicycle and a power sprayer with duster to each youth who will work in the fields by spraying pesticides and earn Rs.100 to Rs.200 per day. A loan of Rs.5000 should be given to each individual to procure the power sprayer. By this, we will be providing employment to around 20 lakhs of rural people in the first instance.

I, therefore, request the hon. Finance Minister to provide Rs.500 crore in the revised budget for this programme with a slogan "One bicycle and power sprayer for each unemployed rural youth".