

Title: Statement regarding launching of Unemployment Benefit Scheme.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

### LAUNCHING OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT SCHEME\*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): Sir, I am very happy to announce to the House that in pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government and under the guidance of UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has taken a momentous decision ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (BANGALORE SOUTH): Sir, what is this procedure?

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : आप स्टेटमेंट दे रहे हैं, ये उनका नाम दे रहे हैं, उनका इससे क्या ताल्लुक है? *â€* (व्यवधान)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : How does her name figure in the Minister's statement? ...*(Interruptions)*

श्री रामदास आठवले (पंढरपुर) : इससे आपको क्या आपत्ति है? *â€* (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: You have objected to that and that has come on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has mentioned the Prime Minister also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : This is an official statement. ...*(Interruptions)* How can the Minister take the name of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have expressed certain reservations and they are on record. Let the Minister continue to read his statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is with regard to Unemployment Benefit Scheme.

...*(Interruptions)*

---

\* Also placed in Library, See No. LT 1767/2005.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : छोड़िये, आप ऐसे क्यों करते हैं?

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more is recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: After my remarks, nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\* â€*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Malhotra, you cannot go on deciding this in this manner. Can we decide this in this fashion?

...*(Interruptions)*

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप मेहरबानी करके बैठिए।

...*(व्यवधान)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made certain reservations about the ways certain things have been said. That is on record. It cannot be decided here.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, will it be there or not? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : What is the constitutional authority of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everything is on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded except the hon. Minister's Statement.

*(Interruptions)*\* â€

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your views have been recorded. His views are also there.

---

\*Not Recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is an important statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Why is Shri Athawale there?

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot speak.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : He can go back to his seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word of his will be recorded. Shri Athawale is having his hopes. We cannot blame him. Everybody is optimistic.

Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI K. CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO: The Ministry of Labour and Employment has taken a momentous decision to implement a highly labour friendly scheme called the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana. This scheme shall be implemented by the Employees State Insurance Corporation, a statutory organization under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. ...*(Interruptions)*

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** आप चुप रहिए। आपके मंत्री जी बोल रहे हैं और आप उनको डिस्टर्ब कर रहे हैं।

...*(व्यवधान)*

SHRI K. CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO: We often come across situations where industrial units and other establishments are closed down for a variety of reasons, beyond the control of workers. During such periods of unemployment, and till they are able to find alternative employment, the economic and social condition of workers and their families becomes highly vulnerable. The absence of a safety net to deal with such situations leads to frustration and impoverishment of the workers.

Insured persons covered by Employees State Insurance Corporation and losing employment after 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2005, on account of closure of factories or establishments, retrenchment, or permanent invalidity arising out of non-employment injury shall be covered under this scheme. The insured workers, who

lose employment after having contributed to the ESI scheme for five or more years, shall be entitled to an Unemployment Allowance in cash, which would be equivalent to about 50 per cent of their wages, for a maximum of six months.

In addition, the insured persons in receipt of Unemployment Allowance and their families shall also be eligible to receive medical care, as available in the ESI dispensaries and ESI Hospitals.

This Scheme which will come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2005 will provide the much needed social security cover for about eight million employees who are insured with the Employees State Insurance Corporation. The medical benefit will be extended to 30 million family members of the insured workers.

The Employees State Insurance Corporation proposes to meet the expenditure of the Scheme out of its existing resources without levying any additional burden either on the employees or the employers. Rupees 300 crores are being provided for, in the Rules under the ESI Act for this purpose.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, this is for the first time that an unemployment related benefit scheme is being launched in the country for our brethren workers and I am sure that all categories of workers and their employers in the country would welcome this important welfare measure.

...(Interruptions)

**प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा** : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि सन् 2005 के बाद के कर्मचारियों को यह सुविधा मिलेगी। हम जानना चाहते हैं कि पहले वाले कर्मचारियों को मिलेगी या नहीं?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): It is a very important Statement. I want to seek clarifications.

MR. SPEAKER: No questions are permitted on a Statement made in this House. There are other methods open. I cannot allow a question to be put.

---

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA):: Please allow us to seek one or two clarifications.

MR. SPEAKER: No. no. We take up Item Number 13.