

>

Title : Regarding heavy job losses in the Country.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (GHATAL): Madam, I seek to raise a grave matter of human distress deeply affecting lakhs of working people in the country. Huge and heavy job losses are taking place. According to the Ministry of Labour, it is about five lakhs. It was according to a random survey. But other authoritative sources put the figure around fifty lakhs throughout the country, within a span of several months. The diamond polishing industry, export industry, garment industry, manufacturing industry, real estate sector, small and medium scale industry are some of the industries which are deeply affected. The wages of those who have not lost their jobs have been substantially reduced. I know of Surat where about three lakh people have lost their jobs and those who still remain, have got their wages reduced to half.

It is the impact of recession and slow down. The labour laws are being violated with impunity. Statutory dues are not being given. I agree that this is an international phenomenon, but in India the situation is alarming. But the Government is unmoved. The Budget speech does not refer to this aspect of human problem of loss of job in thousands, if not in lakhs. The President's Address does not mention that. The Government is behaving as if it is a non-issue. The Government is behaving as if loss of job of lakhs of people is a non-issue.

The Government has announced three packages for the corporate sector. But what is the package for the aggrieved working people, who are in lakhs, today? What is the package for them? You have given package for the corporate sector. But what about the package for lakhs of people who are losing their jobs? The Government has not made it a pre-condition that those who will take advantage of the financial package will not be allowed to downsize, retrench or cut the wages. The generosity of the Government lies with the corporate sector and not with the *aam admi*.

It is a very serious issue affecting the nation. I am constrained to say, if you do not mind, that the political system has become too much elitist. The issue of millions of people has become a non-issue.

I urge upon the House and the Government as well to take note of this massive human problem which is galloping and not receding. I would urge upon the Government to call a meeting of all the trade unions, like the INTUC, BMS, etc. and know from them what is their estimate about the situation. The Government has time to meet the corporate leaders, but it has no time to meet the trade unions to know their estimate. Let there be a meeting called immediately. Let the Government say that those who have availed of the packages will not be entitled to do away with the labour. At least, let there be a relief package for the millions of people who are losing their jobs. I wish the Government responds and I wish the House takes it up. I wish the issue does not remain a non-issue.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you may associate yourself with it. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Madam Speaker, while associating myself with the issue raised by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, I would request you to allow a discussion. This is a very important issue. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: All right, you give a notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, please allow me to speak. ...(Interruptions) Lakhs and lakhs of workers are losing their jobs. It is a very serious issue. The Government is quite indifferent on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You may associate yourself with it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, you please allow a discussion on this matter. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: It is all right. You please give a notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, I want to associate with what Shri Gurudas Dasgupta has said. A large number of people from Orissa are working in the diamond and garment factories in Surat. Many of them have been laid off. That problem should be addressed to. ...(Interruptions)

