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Title: Need to provide unemployment allowance to the unemployed youth belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe community.

DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): The population explosion has given rise to unprecedented unemployment in the country. According to an estimate, there are more than five crore unemployed youth registered in the employment exchanges of the country, while the number of unregistered unemployed youths is more than the registered ones. Such youth are mostly in remote, rural and semi-urban areas and their number is increasing by the day. The situation of unemployment in the country is so grim that even highly qualified youth have failed to get employment. Millions who graduate every year, especially the youth belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are unemployed in spite of getting reservation benefits. This is leading to frustration amongst the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth and they are being easily lured away by anti-social and anti-national forces. In fact, many of them get involved in criminal activities and spoil their lives. Unemployment is also the reason for brain-drain and exodus of substantial number of skilled and unskilled youth, doctors, engineers and scientists from the country. At the same time opportunities of employment are shrinking and the Central Government is also partially responsible for this. For instance, the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government have to surrender ten per cent of the total vacancies arising due to superannuation of employees every year. Further, if any post remains vacant for over a year it automatically lapses. The Agricultural sector has remained the largest employer in our country but due to vagaries of nature and non-remunerative pricing policy, employment same is the situation in the sector of small scale and village industries.

India is a welfare State and as such the onus is on the State to ensure the welfare of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe Community by providing

gainful employment opportunities to them. If the State fails to provide them gainful employment then they should be paid unemployment allowance on a monthly basis. This is the need of the hour which will go a long way in ensuring a dignified life to the youth belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.