

[Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal]

political parties formed in the name of religion which take political decisions while sitting in temples, mosques and in gurudwaras. Action should be taken against such people and they should not be allowed to progress in politics. Then only, this bill will be meaningful.

Just possible my words might have hurt the sentiments of some people. If a decision is taken that everybody residing in the country is an Indian first, then I will be the first man to drop Aggarwal from my name. I will be Jai Prakash an Indian. With these sentiments I support this Bill.

[English].

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is most unfortunate that the Government deemed it expedient to promulgate this so called law of Prevention of Misuse of Religious Places through an ordinance.

S. BUTA SINGH: It is 'called', not 'so called'.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I have just begun and you are so uncomfortable with my first sentence, Mr. Home Minister!

This law was promulgated through an ordinance. It represents a total abuse of the ordinance making power. This Parliament was in session till 13th of May and the ordinance was issued on the 26th of May. It is abundantly clear that this House and the Parliament was by-passed.

Not a single new incident of urgency that might have occurred after the prorogation of the House and before the promulgation of the ordinance, i.e. during May 13 and May 26 period, has been cited by the Government. On the one hand the Government has been saying that they want a national dialogue on these topics and on the other hand even this Parliament was not consulted and an ordinance was issued. I must, therefore, express my total dissatisfaction with the way in which the matter has been dealt with.

It is tragic that today this House has been called upon to consider the provisions of a Bill for preventing the misuse of religious institutions because it is these very institutions that had contributed a significant role during the nationalist movement at the time of our freedom struggle.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Member may continue his speech tomorrow.

17.30 hrs.

[English]

#### HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up the Half-an-Hour discussion. Mr. Thampan Thomas to speak.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): This is one of the very vital issues about which the nation is very much concerned. The problem of unemployment was brought through Question No. 65 before this House. The Hon. Minister had given some reply but that reply was not satisfactory. Some of the friends also raised some other supplementaries in that question and, I think, the hon. Minister could not give the detailed answer in this regard and, as such, this discussion has come up. Further I very much doubt whether the Minister of Labour will be able to appraise the House about the realities because the Question is very much related to Eighth Plan schemes and also the job opportunities provided to the unemployed in the country.

In the Plan document which was there at the time of its framing it had been said that it was estimated 34 million hands will be there seeking jobs at the end of the fifth year and the Government will be able to provide them jobs and also give about a million jobs more to clear the backlog. That was the impression there at the time of

preparation of the Plan document. I have gone through the mid-term appraisal given to the members of the House on the Seventh Plan. I have gone through the entire document but I could not find any statistics giving exact number of jobs created and the people absorbed. If this data had been available one could go through other surveys on the subject but here I would like to refer to Economic Survey. In this what is stated is much different from what the hon. Minister had stated in the House. I quote:

"Growth in the employment in the organised sector has been sluggish in recent years. According to the quick estimates, there was a marginal increase of 1.7 per cent in employment in the organised sector which increased from 250.37 lakhs in June 1986 to 254.73 lakhs at the end of June 1987. The increase took place entirely in the public sector which showed an increase of 3 per cent in contrast to a decline of 1.2 per cent in the organised private sector."

The survey figures further indicate that the number of job seekers has been on the rise (estimated at 304.95 lakhs at the end of November, 1987), while the number of jobs created has not only been highly inadequate but also the rate of growth has been going down. The situation, it is needless to add, is taking on crisis proportions even by the official figures. Those unemployed are not only rural illiterate, but also educated, youth. Further it has been estimated that little over 39 million people will be added to the labour force every five years if the present rate of population growth continues.

Future requirements for creation of employment are quite high. The provision of adequate employment opportunities is not just a welfare measure, it is a necessary part of the strategy of development in a poor country which can ill afford to keep any resources unutilised or under-utilised. The development process should not ignore the human capital of the society for otherwise the costs of development may turn out to be too high. So, Sir, to give an impression to the House citing what is

stated in the outline of the Plan document and saying this much of employment has been created and this much has been absorbed is not the right thing. In reality it is not on the increase. It can also be seen from what had happened in the past. The Economic Survey says the number of applicants registered with employment exchanges in 1971 was 5.1 million. In the 1980 it became 16.2 million. In 1984 it rose to 23.5 million and in the year 1986 it further rose to 30.13 million. From 5.1 million in 1971, it has increased to 30.13 million in 1986 in the matter of registration of unemployed people in the employment exchange to seek jobs. Then, how can the hon. Minister's statement establish that one million people have been absorbed from the backlog. I cannot understand this.

I went through certain documents which were available and found out the condition in other nations. I wonder if the Government's statistics are correct. When I looked through certain articles, I found:

"It is claimed in the Plan document that by 1990 about 40 million pairs of hands will be added to the work force. Also that currently the unemployed number only three per cent of the labour force i.e., out of the 290 million strong labour force only 8.7 million are really without jobs."

Sir, the most industrialised society, Japan, is having more than 6 per cent of the work-force as unemployed. In the United States, it is between 8 per cent to 16 per cent. According to the Plan document, only 3.1 per cent of the work-force is unemployed in India. What is the jugglery of these statistics? I really wonder whether the Indian conditions are better than those in America. Are the Indian conditions better than those in most of the industrialised societies? With this jugglery of statements and data, are you making Members of Parliament and the public fools? It is much more than that. When we estimate that only 293 million people are available as work-force, what is the reality? Out of 800 million people, more than 600 million people are the work-force, which is available.

[Shri Thampan Thomas]

What are the people doing? How are the jobs provided to them?

I would also like to point out another aspect. According to my information, the rate of unemployment is increasing at a much higher rate. It is shown by the number of people registered with the employment exchanges.

There is another factor. The agriculture sector has not absorbed more people. One employment opportunity which can be provided for the Indians searching for jobs, is in the agriculture sector. But what is happening there. Because of bad weather conditions, drought, heavy rains and all that, what has happened is that job opportunities in the agriculture sector have dwindled.

Another thing is that kulaks and big landlords have large land-holdings. They have better facilities to employ technologists. When one tractor is used, a minimum of ten persons will be out of job in a field. I am not against tractors. I say that the employment opportunities in the agriculture sector have never been increased. These have only dwindled on account of two or three reasons. One is the technical development, which I appreciate. Another one is that the natural calamities have denied employment opportunities for the workers. That is what has been brought out in the data. In the agriculture sector, employment has not gone up. The number of educated persons seeking employment as evident from the registers in the employment exchanges, has shown an upward increase. Then, on what basis, this Government, its statistics and its planners, have claimed that there is only 3 per cent of the work-force which is unemployed in India? On what basis, has the hon. Minister said that the backlog is being cleared? I would like to have a detailed answer. What is the number of people who are seeking employment? How many persons have been provided employment? Has the Government got any machinery to assess such things? Is the Labour Department in a position to assess these things on a nationwide scale?

I would like to point out another important aspect. How many industries have been closed down? Four months back, one lakh and fifty thousand industries were closed down. In all these industries, how many people would have been employed? What has happened to all those people? How many people have been thrown out of employment because of closures in the organised industrial sector? Has the organised industrial sector given any promotion for employment generation? The Government's policy, the utopian policy followed by the Government is privatisation of industries, by which computerisation comes, technology comes, new industries come and people are thrown out of their jobs. That has been elicited in the Economic Survey which says that in private sector, employment has dwindled whereas in the public sector, there is marginal increase. So, the Government's policy to support privatisation has thrown out thousands and millions of people out of their jobs.

Then comes factory closure. As per Government's policy, factories can be closed, people can run away, eating the money of the Government, take the bank loans and escape. One lakh and fifty thousand factories have been closed. By this, employment is going away.

Another aspect is the traditional industries. I have got a very strange, a very painful experience in my State, in southern States. It is not only in Tamil Nadu. People who were engaged in the traditional industries like the handloom industries, cashew processing, handicrafts industries and such other industries, were thrown out of employment. In coir industry, about four lakhs of people in Kerala are thrown out of employment because of the import-export policy of the Government. Cashew is not being exported. Two lakhs of people in Kerala are out of job in the recent past on account of this. The same is the case with the handloom workers. How many crores of tonnes are being held up in various parts of the country and handloom could not be sorted? Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and

Tamil Nadu are facing this situation and almost everywhere it is there. Because of the traditional industries which could not be promoted by this Government, many millions of people have been thrown out of employment. Therefore, this is a big question which is before this Government. This Government has to tackle it in the manner in which other countries are tackling it. This Government should take the responsibility to provide job for everybody. It should be included as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution. The Government should see that every man is entitled for a job and he is entitled for a livelihood. That should be provided. Such a method should be adopted. I would like the hon. Minister to explain the attitude of the Government in this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now reply.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am grateful to the Hon. Member who has given some very important informations in the House which will be kept in view while finalising the employment policy for eighth five-year plan. I would like to inform the hon. Member that his figures regarding the persons registered with employment exchanges and the logic given by him to disprove the Government assessment regarding the unemployed persons in the country and the reply given by me is not correct. I know and the hon. Member is also aware of it that the number of unemployed people registered in the employment exchanges does not reflect the exact number of unemployed people. That number cannot be taken as correct or as the correct basis. I have personal experience because I have been associated with the industrial workers and with the industries. The people keep migrating from villages to the cities for employment and for getting appointments. I also know that many people have got their names registered in more than one employment exchanges and some persons who are already employed also get themselves registered with the nearest employment ex-

changes as they do not have employment commensurate with their qualifications.

The second thing is that there are such persons also, and their number is quite big, who do not inform the employment exchanges that they have been employed and that their name should be deleted from the register. There are some other reasons also on the basis of which it can be said that the number of persons registered as unemployed with the employment exchanges is not correct. Keeping in view the figures available in the Seventh Plan document or the assessment regarding employment in the beginning of Seventh Five Year Plan made by the Planning Commission and on the basis of which employment policy was formulated for employment of the unemployed people in the Seventh Five Year Plans and also keeping in view of the census for the last 15 years and a balancing position between the employed and the unemployed we carried out a survey which shows that 39.38 million people will be unemployed during the Seventh Plan period. These figures do not include the backlog. Keeping all this in view, investment policy was formulated. We create employment opportunities, and for this we make investment in different sectors, say in agriculture sector, in service organisations in infrastructure development, in the non-agriculture sector in the industrial sector etc. Then, out of that investment, we assess the output and the growth in national economy. Keeping all these things in view, we assess as to how much employment potential we will be able to generate during the Seventh Year Plan period. On the basis of investment envisaged for the Seventh Plan period the Planning Commission reached the conclusion that employment can be generated for 40.36 people. The important thing behind the assessment was that we are able to achieve 5 per cent economic growth every year out of the investment made then we will be able to create employment opportunities to the people who will be available for employment during the period of five years. It is right that our expectations in the agriculture sector has received a set back due to the drought, but the mid-term appraisal

[Shri Bindeshwari Dubey]

conducted by the Planning Commission recently shows that there has been an average economic growth of 4.4 per cent during the last two years of the Seventh Five Year Plan. The monsoon have been very good this year and if the crops are also good for the next two years then it can be presumed that the target of 5 per cent economic growth fixed can be achieved.

The growth in the industrial sector has been 8.9 per cent and it can be called quite satisfactory. Keeping everything in view, including the growth in industrial sector, employment generation in the Seventh Plan period was estimated to be approximately 40.36 million and on the basis of this I have said in reply to a Question that we will be able to provide employment to not only to all those unemployed people during a period of 5 years but will also be able to provide additional employment to one million people out of the back-log of 9.20 million unemployed.

It cannot be claimed that the figures given by me regarding unemployment and the estimates prepared by the Planning Commission on the basis of different surveys are precisely correct. We have certain norms and formulae for conducting surveys and we arrive at unemployment figures on that basis. If we quote those figures we cannot claim them to be very precise on the day we have quoted them because of the frequent and constant changes in the formation of age groups in the country. As I said the basis of strategy for providing employment is the same viz how much employment potential can we create, how much investment can we make and how much output we fix and achieve accordingly. Then we can generate employment for the people as per the estimated economic growth per year. I said the same thing the other day also and did not hide any fact. I said that while we are succeeding in removing unemployment from the rural areas and the number of unemployed people has come down there, in cities the number of unemployed people has increased. I said it earlier that we have

not succeeded in taking adequate steps in that direction. When I say urban area it includes the industrial sector also to a considerable extent. Therefore this factor cannot be ignored and I have told as to what is the process for creating employment.

Besides, there is one more point. I have said all this on the basis of the general economic growth and the investment made in different sectors. Apart from this there are special employment programmes in the rural areas like R.L.E.G.P. and N.R.E.P. programmes which are concerned not only with the development of agriculture or agriculture production, but are meant for generating employment also. Assets and employment potential is created through R.L.E.G.P., N.R.E.P. and I.R.D.P. The results of all these have been good.

I believe that for self-employment programmes, which are meant for the poor in urban areas, loans are provided for education, for opening fruit shops, tailoring and other such works. Subsidy too is provided for those programmes. There is a separate scheme for the educated people, but we have been unable to tackle the problem of employment through these programmes. Our hon. Members know that the extent of unemployment in the rural areas is not the same today as it was 10 years back.

The majority of our country's population lives in the villages. Therefore we paid attention in our Five Year Plans to reduce the rural unemployment to the maximum. It has certainly been reduced.

The hon. Member mentioned the figures of International Labour Organisation in his question and said if economic growth continues at this rate till 2000 A.D. then employment will be generated at the rate of 3.99 per cent. I want to tell him for his information that we will be able to tackle this problem by 2000 A.D. According to the figures India will be sharing two-thirds of the unemployment in the world by 2000 A.D. I do not know as to where from he has got these figures. But I want to submit that keeping the increasing population of

India in view if we compare it with other nations, then the whole situation gets clear. I have got the comparative details of other countries and I want to say that those countries which are recognised as prosperous—like European and Asian countries, which pump money by paying huge funds, have a much higher rate of unemployment. Therefore we will have to agree that the Government has been trying its level best to tackle the problem of unemployment. We are committed to this. We will require the cooperation from all sections for the purpose. This is a problem where politics cannot be involved. All our hon. Members are concerned about this. This representative Government feels concerned about the unemployment problem and we are determined to face the problem and make all out efforts to solve it.

18.00 hrs.

The hon. Members mentioned that a number of industries have become sick and they are being closed down. Due to that also the labourers are going unemployed and on the other hand it is being said that so many jobs are being created. It is right that a number of industries have closed down but it is not true that the Government have given full liberty to the private sector to do whatever they like in the name of modernisation or computerisation and declare the workers surplus. So far as computerisation is concerned, the policy of the Government is clear that while we consider the computers as a means of increasing efficiency, at the same time no manpower should be rendered surplus as a consequence thereto. The employer should train his employee and employ him in the same job without allowing any re-trenchment. So far as modernisation is concerned, we are considering that no re-trenchment should be made in the name of modernisation, technological development or upgradation. The Government and the Ministry of Labour is aware that it can be misused but as the hon. Member said that had some of the industries not become sick and closures had not taken place, then we would have been able to reduce the urban unemployment which, as I have said, has slightly increased. We could have reduced

the number of unemployed because job opportunities have increased. I have accepted this and have also said that I will not only let our cabinet colleague, the Planning Minister, know about your feelings, but also my own feeling that he should plan a strategy for the Eighth Five Year Plan where steps may be taken to remove unemployment. We must bear it in mind that while we have succeeded in removing rural employment to a large extent we have not been able to contain the urban unemployment. It is not necessary that a big industry should be established for that purpose.

I do not want to discuss the education policy. Why are the educated youth unemployed? Everyone wants an appointment in a Government office or in any other office. The need of the hour is that people should get various types of technical training. A number of agro-based industries can be set up in the villages and many technicians can be accommodated there. There is a need of technicians for the new and developed techniques being introduced in the field of agriculture. Whenever a pumping station in a village gets out of order, no technician is available to repair it, and the same thing can be said about the electric motor and tractors when go out of order. If such training is imparted to the villages then ample employment opportunities can be generated. The need is to impart technical education for self-employment so that maximum number of people may get jobs and open their own cottage industries.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Vocational courses should be introduced in the schools.

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: I agree with you that such trainings should be imparted so that the small-scale and cottage industries may increase in the rural areas and the excessive agriculture dependence may be reduced. The people including some educated ones who are leaving agriculture, should get such a training which may enable them to get employment by opening small industries in the villages only.

[Shri Bindeshwari Dubey]

The figures quoted by me have been obtained from the Seventh Plan Document which is based on the survey conducted and the project reports submitted on that basis. I have only presented the figures available and have not placed any thing on my own. They have quoted figures from the Seventh Plan Document and Economic Survey etc. But as I said that it is the right that if economic growth continues at the rate of 5 per cent every year, then according to our assessment we will be able to generate employment potential for 40.36 million people. According to the mid term appraisal our economic growth in the last few years have been a little over 4.4 per cent. If the situation remains all right then I feel that the Government will be able to generate that much of employment which can be provided in the Five Year Plan period. We will also reduce some of the backlog. Our estimate till 2000 A.D. is that we will be able to provide employment to 120 million unemployed people. If the backlog of 9.20 million is also added in it then we will make an arrangement to provide employment to roughly 130 million people. The target of our plan is to successfully achieve the 5 per cent economic growth rate. If we go on achieving it and even if we consider it 3.99 per cent or roughly 4 per cent and we try to maintain it. Then it is my belief that we will be able to tackle the problems relating to employment by 2000 A.D. (*Interruptions*)

I agree that I have not replied to all your points. You have mentioned certain other things which we will take into consideration including the traditional industries while formulating the plan scheme.

**SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI** (Khalilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt in it that the number of unemployed persons is increasing gradually in India. Its main cause is stated to be the population explosion. Whatever the statistics may be, practically it has been observed that in the category of unemployed persons, there are educated and unedu-

cated persons both. Educated unemployed persons includes persons with medical and engineering degrees as well as having technical training and it comprises non-technical persons with graduation and post-graduation degrees who are in search of jobs. They are all unemployed youths.

So, I would like to know what measures are being taken to provide employment to the uneducated persons, technically qualified persons and non-technical persons such as having B.A. and M.A. degrees.

Sir, the Planning Commission has expressed its displeasure over the percentage of unproductive employment being generated out of total employment generation in the country. If this process continues and employment is provided in the unproductive services, the number of unemployed youths will increase further. The people of the country have high expectations from the hon. Minister. I would like to know what will be the result of providing employment in the unproductive services in various departments and neglecting productive services. Will it not increase the number of unemployed youths. How this problem is proposed to be solved? Sir, I would also like to know the number of unemployed youths estimated to be in Eighth Five Year Plan, and whether the Government is proposed to tackle the problem of unemployment through its old method or proposed to evolve some new device to provide more employment opportunities. If so, details thereof and the views of the Government with regard to it may kindly be stated.

Sir, it is true that 40 million man-days are to be generated during Seventh Five Year Plan under various anti-poverty programmes and the work of constructing roads, dams, or schools under NREP, RLEGP is monitored by the same people who accomplish it. The hon. Minister is also aware of the fact that the entire work is done by contractors and bogus mandays are created on the basis of preparing fake muster-rolls. They show that as many as 10 to 40 thousand mandays have been created. In reality, a particular team accom-

plishes the whole task every year. The particular figures of the creation of mandays are shown on paper, but nothing is done.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is a democratic country, and the Government is supposed to provide facilities and employment to the masses. So I would like to know as to how the Government is proposed to rectify the defects such as practice of showing wrong data. Instructions have been issued that in the construction work of the schemes, 50 per cent should be spent on materials and 50 per cent on labourers. Suppose a primary school or a Junior High School is to be constructed at the estimated cost Rs. 70 thousand. Out of this amount as much as an amount of Rs. 60 thousand is spent on materials alone, leaving barely a meagre amount of Rs. 10 thousand for labourers. How can 50 per cent mandays be generated with this amount of Rs. 10 thousand only. This scheme is faulty. This shows lack of foresightedness on the part of the persons who envisaged it. It is some sort of fraud with the country. So this norm of 50 per cent for materials and 50 per cent for mandays is not possible in each case. This policy is required to be reconsidered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a food for work programme. But everybody knows that the officers mint money by selling entire allocation of wheat. Labourers are reluctant to take wheat. If this is impractical, why wheat is provided to them? Government should make payment in cash in lieu thereof. At present, foreign exchange is spent on importing wheat. That wheat could be supplied during natural calamities like floods and drought. The Government ought to pay attention towards these matters.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the most important issue is that of industries. In spite of every efforts, employment has been generated only in the industrial sector. It is an accepted fact that unless surplus labour force in agriculture is absorbed in industrial sector, unemployment cannot be removed. But the official figures of last ten years reveal that a large number of industrial units

have been closed. Many industries are on the verge of becoming sick and incurring huge losses. If the same situation continues, the mills will be closed. How will it help in generating employment. On one hand, unemployment is increasing, on the other Government is raising the age of retirement from 58 years to 65 or 62 years.

[English]

I want to know from the hon. Minister, whether in coordination with the other Ministries he will have the courage to discuss that the age of retirement of the officers of officials should be reduced to provide employment opportunities to those who are, millions and millions in number, unemployed and roaming on the roads in our country.

[Translation]

Before I conclude I would like to make yet another submission. Under the present licensing policy it takes two to three years in getting a licence and arranging finance from the banks for setting small and big industry by an entrepreneur. The sooner the industries are set up, the sooner employment will be generated. But delay in this work is causing an increase in unemployment. I would also like to know as to how the Government is proposed to deal with such problems.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, even in developed countries like Canada which is thinly populated there is a problem of unemployment but in those countries compensation is paid to the unemployed persons. Certainly, in our country, there is increase in employment, but the hon. Minister in his answer to the original question said that the backlog was 9.20 millions at the beginning of the Seventh Plan and that it is to be reduced to 8.30 million at the end of the Seventh Plan. I do not know whether the growth of population in these five years has been taken into consideration.



[Shri Somnath Rath]

Besides, the hon Minister has also supplied that by the turn of the century 130 millions will be provided jobs. I want to know from the hon Minister, what he means by 'jobs'. Does it mean only the workers, or unemployed persons, who registered in the employment exchanges, the semi-educated or educated, beginning from primary to college education? But there are a large number of unemployed persons in rural areas who have not registered in those employment exchanges. So, when you think of planning, it is not of the labour department alone and when you say about the poverty alleviation schemes that is another Ministry's concern, when we talk about production and productivity increase, there is another Ministry; and there is a Ministry for implementation and also Planning. So, all the concerned Ministers and Ministries ought to discuss this important issue of unemployment and come to a conclusion. I would like to know from the hon Minister, about the scheme - as he has spoken about the thrust on the Eighth Five Year Plan that is going to be finalised, our Prime Minister has also given stress on district planning-- will he talk to his colleagues in the other Ministries and see that a data bank is prepared, at the district level about the unemployed persons so that the BDOs, the Inspectors of the Labour Department of each State should prepare a data bank, as to how many persons have not been employed, or are being registered in the employment exchanges, and how many persons in the rural areas and even urban areas have not been registered stress has to be given to unorganised labour. And, when you talk of the agricultural labour, it is to be pointed out that they are not paid minimum wages. It is an open secret. These agricultural labourers are not having employment throughout the year. So, to supplement it, what we have to do is, we have to set up cottage industries in villages. So, Khadi Board should take up this job and provide employment to the villagers during the lean period. I would like to know what steps have been taken in this regard?

Sir, in employment exchanges, the names of those who have registered there

after reaching a certain age limit are struck off. This does not mean that they have provided employment to these people. They are also jobless. There is a problem of inter-State migrant labourers. There is a problem of emigration labourers outside the country so, this is a matter which the Government has to look into.

We were proud about the Government's policies that is *Bekari Hatao* and *Garibi Hatao*. These policies can only be implemented if really statistics is taken from all the sectors. It is no use only the labour Minister giving some statistics of his Department. It is concern of the nation. It is a problem which can be tackled only if it is taken on its proper perspective. Schemes and programmes have to be prepared so that by the turn of this century we can give employment to 130 million people. I would like to know from the Hon Minister how best he is going to achieve it?

SHRI S B SIDNAL (Belgaum) Sir, this problem has been continuously worrying not only this country but all the countries. How are you going to solve this problem? This problem has been discussed many times on the floor of this House, and outside. What is the solution? How best we can achieve the result? How will we give employment to the younger generation? Is it by industrialisation alone? No, because we have not advanced very much and within ten or fifteen years, we cannot give employment to all the people, who are unemployed now. In due course, this number will swell. There are public industries, private sectors, self-employment, agricultural section, and so many other things. Have you planned systematically to feed these youngsters? Sir, in my opinion, we have planned, but that plan is not adequate to absorb the younger generation, who are being continuously frustrated. So, what best could be done in the available circumstances is really a big problem.

According to me, it is not only concerned with the Labour Ministry, but with the Health Ministry also. Population has to be curbed in proportion to the job that may be created by the turn of this century.

We are not serious about this problem. Unless you curb the growing population, whatever we have produced will vanish. The moment you go outside, thousands of mouths will approach with a pair of hands, whom we are not able to feed. Therefore, the whole planning process has to be changed from A to Z.

My friend mentioned that our beloved Prime Minister has been thinking seriously to plan at the district level. Can it help? According to me, we have very seriously analysed the facts and we find it is sumptuous. How? In districts, we know the sources of employment. And that we have not been able to do. One example I may give. You take afforestation programme. It may be very small, very negligible, but it makes all the wealth of the country. If you make a master plan for 15 years to make the country green and clean, in each district you can give employment to 10,000 uneducated and unskilled persons. 5000 persons will go on planting the trees and another set of 5000 will go on maintaining them. For 15 years if you calculate, the profit will be more than the investment that we have made. And those people will get employment there.

Another section is agricultural section. It is not taken care of scientifically. We have been providing seeds, pesticides, manure, everything. But have you trained the man who is using these things? We have not trained him. Many people have died while spraying pesticides on cotton and other crops. We have not been able to give them proper education. They do not know how to utilise water properly, how erosion takes place, what are the minerals of the land. Agriculture is the biggest sector in the country. 80 per cent of the people live in rural areas. It has the capacity to absorb all of them provided we plan for agriculture, which we have not done so far. We have built many projects. But they are all affected by silt deposit. Erosion is threatening us very seriously. The other day when there was a discussion on floods, it was brought to the notice of the House how erosion has taken place. It is not by discussion alone that things will be all right. We have to plan, we have to halt somewhere

to re-structure and re-build our country. Unless you produce more, you cannot employ more people. The problem of modernisation, mechanisation or computerisation of the industry was there in Japan also. They absorbed these people after giving proper training suitable to the job of modernisation or upgradation. And the rest of the people were silently sent to other sectors where they were absorbed. We cannot deny the entry of science into our country. If we do that, we will be left behind the clock of the world. If we are left behind the clock of the world, we cannot stand in the international field and we have to be poorer and poorer. To solve unemployment problem we cannot keep our machines idle. If we do so, production-wise, we will be very small, quality-wise we will be worse. Then there will be no market and no transaction. About the district planning and all that, the Minister was telling so beautifully as if things are going to happen today or tomorrow. Really a serious attention has to be paid to this aspect not by Labour Department alone or Industries Department but by the whole Government including the opposition. All of them should sit and thrash out the plan. It is not that people sitting in air-conditioned rooms of Yojana Bhavan will do it. A very serious thought has to be given as to what is the best way to curb our population. Today, all concentration has taken place in big cities. With the result, there is no place to live, no water to drink and no air to breathe. So satellite cities have to be planned immediately.

My friend from the other side, has put all the accusations of the world on our head because we are ruling. We welcome some serious criticism. Madam Gandhi foresaw all those things. After nationalisation, full incentive and subsidy has been given not only to backward and weaker sections but to backward districts also. But my friends on the other side criticise us for the sake of criticism. If they have any plan better than this, we welcome that. But they have never done this. They only criticise. We welcome any good criticism.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now please conclude.

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: So, what I would request the Labour Minister is to have a dialogue with the Health Minister, the Industry Minister and the Agriculture Minister to see how we can stop the inflow of the rural people into the urban areas, adding to the population. In the rural areas you don't get even Rs. five per day. If I go to Bombay or Delhi and do even shoe-polishing, I can earn Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 per day. So, why should I live in a rural area? Rural areas have been totally neglected by the State Governments. I appeal to the Central Government to give correct directions to those people for creating activities in the rural areas, cooperative-wise or agro industry wise or in any other manner which is suitable and appoint a high-powered committee, including all experts in this country. I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already mentioned in detail in the very beginning of my speech, about the measures being taken to tackle the problem of unemployment. I do agree that only productive employment should be generated. I am not in favour of generating unproductive employment. So I am in agreement with the hon. Member that it is of no use to generate unproductive employment. But I would like to say that planning is a continuous process. A plan is prepared for a particular period taking into account the necessity of the time. We do undertake mid term appraisals also, and the strategy of the plan is also changed accordingly. The hon. Member has himself stated that the Hon. Prime Minister is very much concerned about it and he wanted to effect changes in the strategy in making the 8th Five Year Plan. He is interested in the planning from below, or planning at district level. The hon. Member has himself made suggestion that planning process should be initiated at district level and a data banks be set up at dis-

trict level. It is a good idea to gather correct information.

There is no need to reply to those points. I will pass on those suggestion to the Minister for Planning and I will discuss these points with him.

The Ministry of Labour is concerned with registering the names of unemployed persons and forwarding the names to the employers who send demands. But we have the joint responsibility. This question is addressed to Ministry of Labour, so I am replying. But it is also true that the Planning Commission is also concerned with this question. We have to coordinate the various departments to gather information with regard to achievement of target fixed for the various sectors and generation of employment. I will have talk with the Minister of Planning about these suggestions made by the hon. Member. I will also find ways and means as to how best the various department are to be coordinated to arrive at mutually agreed decision in this regard. it is a very good suggestion.

The Hon. Prime Minister himself is very much concerned about it. As a Member of the Council of Minister I am saying that he is also ceized of the matter and is holding talks with the Members of his Cabinet. I would convey these suggestions to him so as to take these suggestions in view while preparing future strategy to solve this problem. That is what I wanted to say.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House is adjourned to reassemble tomorrow.

18.36 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 11, 1988/Sravana 20, 1910 (Sakha)*