

Narayanan, Shri K. R.
 Nawal Prabhakar, Shrimati Sunderwati
 Pandey, Shri Madan
 Pandey, Shri Manoj
 Parashar, Prof. Narain Chand
 Paswan, Shri Ram Bhagat
 Patil, Shri Uttamrao
 Patnaik, Shrimati Jayanti
 Patnaik, Shri Jagannath
 Poojary, Shri Janardhana
 Prabhu, Shri R.
 Purushothaman, Shri Vakkom
 Qureshi, Shri Aziz
 Rai, Shri I. Rama
 Rajhans, Dr. G. S.
 Ram, Shri Ramswaroop
 Ram Dhan, Shri
 Ramashray Prasad Singh, Shri
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.
 Rao, Shri P. V. Narasimha
 Rathod, Shri Uttam
 Rawat Shri Harish
 Sethi, Shri Ananta Prasad
 Shanmugam, Shri P.
 Sharma, Shri Chiranji Lal
 Shervani, Shri Saleem I
 Sidnal, Shri S. B.
 Singh Deo, Shri K. P.
 Sinha, Shri Satyendra Narayan
 Sodi, Shri Mankuram
 Sparrow, Shri R. S.
 Subburaman, Shri A. G.
 Sukh Ram, Shri
 Suman, Shri R. P.

Suryawanshi, Shri Narsing
 Thakkar, Shrimati Usha
 Tripathi, Dr. Chandra Shekhar
 Vanakar, Shri Punam Chand Mithabhai
 Verma, Dr. C. S.
 Verma, Shrimati Usha
 Vyas, Shri Girdhari Lal
 Yadav, Shri Shyam Lal
 Zainul Basher, Shri

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Subject to correction, the result * of the Division is :

Ayes—9

Noes—91

The motion is not carried in accordance with Rule 157 of the Rules of Procedure and in accordance with the provision of Article 368 of the Constitution of India.

The motion was negatived.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

[Insertion of New Article 15 A]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next Item. Shri Thampan Thomas.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : I beg to move :

“That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration.”

This Amendment to this constitution to incorporate the right to work and pay unemployment dole is not coming up for the first time for consideration before the House but from the very consideration of the Constitution in the Constituent Assembly, it was stressed that the right to work is a point which is to be included in the fundamental right.

*The following Members also recorded their votes :—

AYES : Shri V. S. Krishna Iyer, Shri S. M. Guraddi and Shri Gadedhar Saha;

NOES :—Shri Khelan Ram Jangde, Shri Vir Sen, Shri Sidha Lal-Murmu and Shrimati Sheila Dikshit.

[Shri Thampan Thomas]

If we go through the debates of the constituent Assembly, even the speech of Dr. Ambedkar when he was presenting the Draft Constitution, he had stressed the need to have a socialist society. Now, after the passage of this much time, when we look back and see, it was included in the Directive Principles. From our experiences, we find this is the time when it will have to be included in the Fundamental Rights. Why I am saying this is because of the non-authority of the Courts to go into and check whether the rights of the citizens are implemented or not. And in the absence of such a check this valuable right in the socialist society is denied.

Now, if we look at the countries like, Bulgaria, Bolivia, G. D. R., China, Czechoslovakia, Venezuela, North Vietnam, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Yugoslavia, Mongolian People's Republic, Japan, North Korea, Libya, Poland, Romania, Syria, U.S.S.R., Iraq and Hungary, in their written Constitutions they have made provisions to see that it is the duty of the Government to provide for employment and if not to give unemployment doles for their citizens.

In 1975, the socialists had made it clear in the Preamble itself that we dedicate ourselves to a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic. When the very word 'socialist' is included in the Preamble of the Constitution, it becomes mandatory for us to see that the right to work—if not, the payment of unemployment wages—becomes part of the Fundamental Rights.

In this context, I would like to invite attention to the debates in the Constituent Assembly. I will quote Dr. Ambedkar, *i.e.* what he had said when this matter was put into the Directive Principles. At that time, there were apprehensions expressed by Members *i.e.* whether by including it in the chapter on Directive Principles, the aspirations of the people will be fully satisfied. What Dr. Ambedkar said then is this.

If it is said that the Directive Principles have no legal force behind them, I am prepared to admit it. But I am not prepared to admit that they have no sort of binding force at all. Nor am I prepared to concede that they are useless because they have no binding force in law,

The Directive Principles are like the Instrument of Instructions which were issued to the Governor-General and to the Governors of the Colonies and to those of India by the British Government under the 1935 Act. Under the Draft Constitution it is proposed to issue such instruments to the President and to the Governors. The texts of these Instruments of Instructions will be found in Schedule IV of the Constitution. What are called Directive Principles is merely another name for Instrument of Instructions. The only difference is that they are instructions to the Legislature and the Executive. Such a thing is to my mind welcomed. Wherever there is a grant of power in general terms for peace, order and good government, it is necessary that it should be accompanied by instructions regulating its exercise.

Therefore, at the time of including the right to work, for the citizens as a goal, it was included in the Directive Principles in this context. But what had happened? Subsequent to this, when it was included in the Directive Principles, the Executive and the legislature had never thought of it as an instruction, or as an instrument of instructions. Instead of that, they made it to become a casually, and it be come only a slogan. That is now very well sren *i.e.* with 48% of the population living below the poverty line and about 3.7 million people registering their names in the various employment exchanges in India and people demanding jobs everywhere, and finding it very difficult to live, we see that this has always been only a slogan, and never the practice, nor was any earnest effort made for the purpose of implementing it. Therefore, I feel that judiciary has to look into the matter so that it becomes a matter of right for the people, *viz.* that job is a right and if job cannot be provided, by the Government, then people have to be paid unemployment wages for the purpose of living.

'The cardinal principle behind Fundamental Rights is the right to life, which is guaranteed by any means. That is the freedom of life. The freedom of life also cannotes its existence. Unless a person has got the means to live, how can his life be maintained?

So, for the purpose of maintaining his life, there must be a way in a socialist society

is to be guaranteed by the government; that is what it is said. When the amendment is made in the Constitution and we declared ourselves as a socialist State, it becomes imperative on our part to see that it should be changeds from the Directive Principles and bring it back to the Fundamental Rights so that the court will have the scrutiny of this matter and how far that has been implemented.

This matter has been discussed by this House several times and I have gone through the previous debates of this August House when it came up for consideration. In the Constituent Assembly itself, when the subject in matter of Foundamental Rights was discussed, it was said while moving an amendment by Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (United Provinces : General). It reads as follows :

“This is a clause which is very fundamental in our Constitution. The character of the amendments suggested. also shows that it goes to the very root of the whole Constitution. My sympathies are undoubtedly with the amedmentt of Prof. K. T. Shah who has moved two amendments which really suggest that in this clause we should lay down that the system of our State shall be “Socialist.”

So, it was the vision of our forefathers, of our Constitution, that our nation should be a socialist nation; and if that was the vision of our forefathers that is should be a socialist State, even the most important duty of State, to guarantee life fore its citizens, we could not provide. We have to admit that and take the responsibility and see that every citizen in the State is guaranteed the minimum right of life. For the purpose of guaranteeing the minimum right of life the right of employment should come out of the Directive Principles and should find a place in the Fundamental Rights. This has got international ramifications. Article 32 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says :

“Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.”

We accept it. If it is a fundamental right—Article 23 (1)—which is accepted,

then it becomes a duty to give job and protect it for the individual.

The preamble to the French Constitution of 1946 reads :

“Every one has the duty to work and the right to obtain employment... Every human being who, because of his age, his physical or mental conditions, or because of the economic situation, finds himself unable to work, has the right to obtain from the community the means to lead a decent existence...The nation guarantees equal access of children and adults to education, professional training and culture.”

The Constitution of the Fifth Republic 1958 reaffirms it. Article 118 of the Constitution of USSR says :

“The Citizens of the USSR shall have the right to work, that is, the right to guaranteed employment and payment for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality.....”

Article 27 of the Constitution of Japan says :

“All people shall have the right and obligation to work. Standards for wages, hours, rest and other working condition shall be fixed by law...”

Similarly Article 4 of the Constitution of Libya says :

“Work in Libyan Arab Republic is a right a duty and an honour for every able bodied citizen...”

In this context, we are going to compare our country even with Libya; whether we are able to give this guarantee. When this discussion took place in 1978, when this was elaborately discussed by the House and came up for consideration, most of the members were involved in the discussion, and many of our friends are those who now find a place on the Treasury Benches.

I have read his speech, participating in the debate in 1978, how vociferous they were, canvassing the point to include it in the Fundamental Rights, the right to work !

I bring to your notice, that at that time it was pointed out, that this is one of

[Shri Thampan Thomas]

the most important rights of the citizens and it was stressed quoting from various constitutions of various countries, and that includes China. The Constitution of China says; Article 27 of the 1975 Constitution says :

“Article 27 of 1975 Constitution *inter alia* provides ‘citizens have the right to work and the right to education’. Working people have the right to rest and the right to material assistance in old age in case of illness or disability.”

15.26 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN
in the Chair]

In the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Rumania, it is said :

“In the Socialist Republic of Rumania, the citizens have the right to work. Each citizen is given the possibility to carry on, according to his training an activity in the economic, administrative, social or cultural field and is remunerated according to its quantity and quality. For equal work there is equal pay.”

So, this subject matter was discussed in 1978 at length. Finally, the fate of that Bill was, it was put out for eliciting opinion. After that, that Parliament was dissolved and therefore nothing could take place. And I am glad to say that this is the second time in this Eighth Lok Sabha a Bill of this nature is coming up for consideration. Earlier in 1986, when Shri Banatwalla presented a Bill, that got the ballot and that was discussed in this House. For a second time again, it seems that the God is with this Bill—if there is a God—and God also wants that this right is to be given to the people of this nation. Because for a second time also in the ballot the same item has come up. And in the Eighth Lok Sabha when it comes up for second time, I think the Government will accept it and will present it as a Government Bill and provide this right to work in the Fundamental Rights.

Earlier 1948 onwards it was being discussed. In 1962 along with the question of the Fundamental Rights it was discussed

in detail. In the ‘sixties’ and the ‘seventies’ kland all the Lok Sabha had an occasion in some way or other to discuss the matter and so voiced their concern over the matter. But perhaps this may be the first time that in the same Lok Sabha, for a second time the same type of Bill, same subject matter is coming up for consideration by ballot. So, my request is that the hon. Minister should take notice of it and give due consideration for that and the Government themselves should bring a Bill for this purpose and see that the citizens are guaranteed jobs in this country.

I need not go into the details of the problem. Because, all of us are aware of it. The conditions which we have today, are known. The persons who have got the means have got every facility to have a decent living. Whereas the persons who have no means, they are finding it every day difficult to pull on. They have nobody to support them. Our community as such is not responsible to the individual. We have declared many things in our various policy statements saying that we are marching to wards achieving this end. In 1962 we said in our Plan :

“The central concern of our planning has to be the removal of poverty as early as possible. The stage has now come when we should sharply focus our efforts on providing an assured minimum income to every citizen of the country within a reasonable period of time. Progressively this minimum itself should be raised as development goes apace”.

This was the declaration in 1962. What is the position of this declaration today ? What is the condition of the people from 1962 till date when we claim that we have completed six five-year plans and we have achieved self-sufficiency in foodgrains. We are able to export agricultural products to other countries and our godowns in various parts of the country are full with agricultural produce. We are 8th or 9th nation in the world in industrial production. We have an increase of 11 per cent in industrial production. Yet with all these, what remains is that the per capita income of the common man in India is still below the nearby south-eastern region. Perhaps only Bangla Desh is the country which is

having less per capita income than us. I have recently seen the statistics which were prepared in my State. The per capita income has risen by 0.6% only whereas the national average of per capita increase is 1.6%. The number of registered educated qualified people who are seeking employment in a small State like that of Kerala, is 27 lakhs. That will be only on the increasing side because there is no industrialisation, no factories or other things coming up. Has anybody got any responsibility to provide jobs to them? You see Bihar. Everyday the zamindars and the upper caste people are shooting the people. Recently there was a news report that a few persons assembled in a particular area to repair a generator or transformer. Immediately some people came and shot 21 people dead on the spot. We see the big houses of industrialists. Dalmia Nagar is closed for six years. About 20,000 workers are in the streets.

The workers of the factory are requesting the management to re-open the factory and they are prepared to work in half of the wages which they were getting earlier. There should be some clause in the Constitution to make it obligatory to big concerns like Dalmia Nagar to provide employment to the workers. About 1 lakh and odd factories are closed today. This clause should be shifted from Directive Principles to the Fundamental Rights to make it obligatory on the part of industries to see that the people are given employment. If there is such a clause in the Fundamental Rights, it can be exercised by the Supreme Court under article 32 or High Courts. Any citizen can go to the court and file a case that this particular factory which is closed, can provide jobs to 20,000 people. The court would have seen how these people could be saved from that situation. When the hon. Labour Minister gives his statistics before the House about the closure of factories, it is never on the decreasing side. Now more than 1 lakh factories are closed and because of that people are thrown out of employment. The Government or court or any other forum can interfere. But still it continues in that position. How can it be averted? Of course, the Minister may say in his answer that there is the Sick Industry Taking-over law or something like that.

Whereas Court under Article 226 can direct on the basis of *writ of mandamus* to take over a factory and provide jobs and the rest of the things will take place thereafter. To that extent it could have been solved. Like that, in regard to accumulation of wealth in certain areas, people who have the means can accumulate wealth and keep it to themselves. They can purchase gold and keep it in their shelf or they can keep rice and paddy in their go-downs. They can also send it to other countries and thus amass wealth elsewhere also. All this situation could have been avoided if there was a duty bound principle on the part of the Government as well as the society to see that his brother is saved and given job and there is equality before law and there is equality in the society. Therefore, you see the range of differences. The persons who have got the ability to amass wealth can amass it and the persons who have no means for livelihood die out of starvation and in Kalahandi about 400 people died because of acute scarcity of drinking water. In recent years, we have been hearing—news about Madhya Pradesh—that poor people in Madhya Pradesh ate certain things and they died. They had to eat those things because they were in starvation condition. How can this poverty and starvation be overcome? How can we the Government solve unemployment problem in the country? Is it not the duty on the part of the Government that job is to be provided and every citizen should get his livelihood to maintain himself and his family? Therefore, I stress that this is a very fundamental necessity for every citizen to get job and fundamental for him for his existence. It is a fundamental right incorporated in Chapter 3 of the Constitution. It is only because of that it is fundamental. The Directive Principles are only slogans, mere slogans to attract people during the election time, for the purpose of election manifesto. But the fundamental right is given and it makes it mandatory on the part of the Government to see that job is provided to every citizen. So, I say that my Bill seeks to make life and living and employment as one part and put it in the Fundamental Rights. I am not going into the details. My friends are anxious to speak on this subject and I hope all my friends will take part actively in this discussion and

[Shri Thampan Thomas]

make this Government to take up this matter as official Bill and change the Constitution to that extent.

Sir, in this context, 'I would like to point out another thing. If Government was willing to accept Shri Banatwalla's Bill in principle when he brought forward some Muslim women's right, when he said something should be done on the basis of 'Shariyat' that every Muslim or something like that will have to give something to his divorced wife. The Bill like that is against the Criminal Procedure Code. Under the Criminal Procedure Code, there is freedom to marry and freedom to divorce and no money should be paid. But in the case of Shah Bano, it was upheld that there should be payment. If a wife is divorced, she is entitled to compensation if she has no means. But there was a Bill before this House that man was wrong and that was to be amended and the Government was prepared to accept it in to and the Prime Minister himself agreed and the Bill was brought before this House. There is a Bill for the Muslims and that is quite okay. So then the Government has paid that much attention in the matter of Shah Bano's case, you should pay same attention to the poor people of this country, 48% of the people who are living below the poverty line. Taking that into consideration, I hope and I appeal that Government may bring forward an official Bill in this regard and make necessary amendments in the Constitution and see that the poor masses in the country are safeguarded so that they are rest assured of their livelihood in future.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, chapter 3 of the constitution of our country contains fundamental rights and directive principles of State policy have been given in chapter 4 of the constitution. It is a challenge for us to convert directive principles of State policy into fundamental rights and we are not yet prepared to face that challenge, our government is not prepared for it. Nor could the Janata Party, which ruled the country during the period from 1977 to 1980, convert these directive principles into fundamental

rights. Now question arises as to how we can convert these directive principles into fundamental rights and move forward, which is posing a challenge for us. We are to strengthen the economic condition of our country and we have taken steps for it, our Government have taken steps in this direction. This 20-point programme for removal of poverty is a step in this direction. It will pave the way in moving towards fundamental rights. We have given special priority to the removal of the poverty programme under 20-point programme and I.R.D.P. during the Sixth Five Year Plan and we are taking this programme in the Seventh Five Year Plan also. As a result of this, we have been able to bring down the percentage of the people living below the poverty line from 47 to 37. But our programme for elevation of poverty received a serious set back due to drought and floods, particularly in Rajasthan and Gujarat, where there is severe drought and in Assam, W. Bengal and Bihar to floods. It is a matter of great concern and we should think over it that when the people is affected by drought, they do not get employment.

In my constituency, Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur are facing severe drought conditions. The Minister of Agriculture in his statement on drought conditions have stated that several measures are being adopted to face the drought problem...*(Interruptions)* I would like to put an amendment to the Constitution Amendment Bill brought forward by the hon. Member. It will be very much distressing to the people living in drought affected districts, if they are not provided employment. At least people residing in such areas must get employment, they must have the right to work. Kindly, try to think over it...*(Interruptions)*...I am not talking of my constituency alone, I am talking about whole of the nation. I have referred to floods also. The people will be in a very pitiable condition in severe drought affected areas, in case people residing there are not provided employment. There must be a provision in the Constitution in this regard. Under these circumstances, when country is facing severe drought conditions, people residing in drought affected areas must be provided employment if they so desire. The employment is not being provided in Barmer and other drought-hit areas. Therefore, there is a exodus to Haryana, to Punjab and to certain other States. Such is

the position, the Central Government should look into it and take steps to remedy the situation.

The Central Government should make arrangements so that the programmes drawn are implemented in letter and spirit. The I.R.D.P. is the most significant employment providing programme. This programme is meant to remove poverty, but it is not being implemented honestly. Tribals get 50% subsidy and 50 percent loan under this programme, but the amount of subsidy is not reaching them. The amount of subsidy is swallowed either by the development officers or by the Doctor for issuing a certificate. This assistance is not reaching to the really deserving people. There should be no provision for grants under I.R.D.P., assistance should be given in other ways. There should be no interest for 4-5 years on loans granted under the programme. The benefit of interest equivalent to the amount of subsidy should be given to the beneficiaries of the programme. This will strengthen their economic position and curb malpractices. Thus the programme is needed to be strengthened.

Second is the National Rural Employment Programme. This programme was undertaken to provide employment to the people and to create assets in rural areas. The assets have been developed in the form of schools, dispensaries and health centres in villages. The people in rural areas have been provided employment also. This programme has been very successful.

Besides this, there is another programme known as R.L.E.G.P. under which Government provides 100% assistance. Under this programme, construction of roads and certain other work have been undertaken. People have been given employment, but more employment opportunities are still required to be provided. Unless, we give emphasis to production of khadi, which Mahatma Gandhi emphatically emphasised, we are not going to succeed. We are not paying full attention to it. In my constituency, woolen khadi is being produced and about ten thousand people are employed in this job. There is an expansion potential too. We may encourage production of carpets, woolenkhadi and handicrafts and provide more employment opportunities. The

Government should fix a time limit, say in ten years or so, in which right to work, right to employment will be given. As regards education and employment system, I would like to say that 80% degree holders and 90% diploma holders out of those who got degrees and diplomas in Engineering during the last three years have not been provided employment. We are changing our education policy and propose to emphasise technical and vocational education under new education policy. As regards vocational education, I would like to invite the attention of the Government towards problem of unemployment being faced by the degree and diploma holders in Engineering. We are spending crores of rupees on technical institutions but we are unable to provide employment to those who obtain degrees and diplomas from these institutions. This aspect needs to be looked into. The Government should also give a thought to it that in order to enable youths to get employment early, what type of technical education should be imparted to them.

In my country, there is unequal distribution of wealth. Some people are very rich whereas some are very poor. There are people who have got enormous means to flourish their business and trade but on the other hand there are people who are very poor and having of nothing even to eat. We should think seriously to bridge this gap. We will have to make big changes in our plans. Earlier, we had decided to provide employment at least to one person in a family, but no concrete steps was taken in this regard. We should take a decision, here and now, that at least one person in a five members family will be given employment. If we succeed, we there will have somewhat relief, but so far success has been eluding us.

We will have to take some concrete step to solve unemployment problem. We have started self-employment programme for the educated unemplyed, but the loan under this programme is being granted to those who do not need it. those who are in need of it are not being granted. The Government should bring an amendment in fundamental rights given in the Directive Principles and make a provision for employments guarantee to the unemployed. There is employment guarantee scheme in Maharashtra, it should be extended to the entire country. Right to

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

work should be included in fundamental rights. Ours is not a sound economy, therefore, we should take steps in such a way that our policies are implemented. If we are unable to implement them, we will not succeed. With these words, I conclude.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill brought forward by Shri Thampan Thomas is of utmost importance which needs to be discussed seriously. It is not an ordinary Bill. I would like to say in brief that we ought to read the writing on the wall. When we, the Members of Parliament visit our constituencies lakhs of unemployed people congregate around us and demand employment from us. They are not much educated. They are too ignorant to understand that it is beyond the power of an M.P. to manage employment for so many people. As many as 6 to 7 lakh people of my area have come to Delhi, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Ballabgarh in search of employment. Every morning about 2 to 3 hundred people call at me with a request to write recommendatory letters for their employment. But they do not get employment despite my writing recommendatory letters. It is quite but natural. What I mean to say is that the unemployment problem has assumed so alarming proportion that it will weaken the very root of our democracy if it is not tackled effectively within next 5 to 10 years. What is happening in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar today will be repeated in Delhi after a period not more than 10 years. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once said that so long as poverty and hunger stroke to any part of the globe, the developed or the affluent nations could not live in peace, because sooner or later their poverty would disturb their peace.

16.00 hrs.

Similarly, the people in Delhi cannot live in peace on the face of serious unemployment in other parts of the country. One or the other day, this vast contingent of unemployed people would be forced to march to Delhi, so it is prudent that this problem is tackled at the grass root by providing them employment there itself. A lot of discussion has been taken place about unemployment problem in this House. Prior

to this also, a Bill was brought forward by Shri Banatwala. But the fact remains that the number of unemployed people is increasing by leaps and bounds. There are two types of unemployed people in our country. One is educated and the other is uneducated. When I found educated people with bachelor degrees in first class belonging to Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were washing utensils in small hotels in Delhi, it moved me so much that it reduced me to tears. You may cut a joke by saying that he is a 'purbia' you may even pass a remark that he is destined to do this. But, Sir, this is not a matter to be sidetracked just by passing such remarks. They do this type of job here under sheer compulsion. Had it been some other country, it would have been a different case. You might be aware that violence is taking its heavy toll in Bihar. The extremists arrested so far are found to be educated and they are well trained in handling arms. Why do such things happen there? Despite the area being rich in natural resources, the people are not getting employment. I think this is the reason behind growing violence there. It is not a present day creation, but it has been continuing for the last two to five hundred years. From this part of the land poor people had been taken to Maritius, Trinidad, Fiji and they were made slave there. Now their children are being harassed in those lands, Even today people from Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Orissa come here in search of employment and are forced to lead a life of animals. But they do not get employment. Did anybody ever think seriously as to what is the solution to this problem? We cannot sidetrack this issue simply on the plea that this is Bihar's problem and it is their business to find solution to it. According to the constitution of India one is free to settle or acquire land anywhere in the country. Nobody can prevent him from doing so.

Now some of the people of Delhi have started saying that the Delhi population has reached its saturation point and no outsiders should be allowed to settle in Delhi. All of us are Indians. Nobody is an outsider. How can they be prevented from coming. If they are not provided employment in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh they will certainly come to Delhi in search of employment. Nobody can stop them. A solution to this problem needs to be thought over

very seriously. It is not a case like that of a compartment of passenger train where persons occupying berths in it first prevent entry of the passengers coming afterwards to it on the plea of non-availability of room in the compartment. An affluent person cannot say that he is none to bother if the other persons have no shelter. I had been to China. Very unusual things were used to be reported about China. But when I went there and saw the progress of China, it impressed me very much. In that country the minimum monthly wages is Rs. 600 and the maximum is Rs. 2,500. The Prime Minister also gets Rs. 2,500 only not more than that.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : But there is dictatorship, Dr. Rajhans.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Everybody in that country has been provided employment. I have studied China's 3000 years past history, but the degree of equality which prevails today was never found in the past. Indeed, there is dictatorship in that country, but we should take good things of others. Our country is so rich in natural resources that we can create ample employment opportunities. I am of the opinion that it is the bureaucrats who are instrumental in bringing bad name for Public Sector. As soon as a proposal is mooted to set up a public sector unit people started raising objections on the grounds that it will run in loss and bring no good. Had it been run honestly, it would have definitely yielded profit. It may be recalled that prior to 1949, 50% people in China were without employment, but today everybody has got employment in that country. I am not making a case of dictatorship for this country, but I must say that employment avenues should be made available to the people. After all it is not their fault that they are jobless and have no means of earning their livelihood. I have seen lakhs of families in this country who are not in a position to meet their both ends. Is it not our responsibility to provide food to the people at least two times a day. It will be possible only when everybody is provided employment. Now time has come to stick to one child norm instead of having two and it should be observed strictly. The

country cannot make progress unless work force is reduced.

Secondly, a lot of discussion has taken place about the New Education policy in the House. I would like to suggest that emphasis should be laid on technical education instead of general education in the country. People should be imparted vocational training, because general education will lead to frustration. Sir, if you allow me to speak, I find no better subject than this. There are vast scopes available in our country which can generate large number of employment opportunities. Recently, the Nobel laureate, Prof. Solo said that any State can create large number of employment opportunities if it so wishes. Another noted economist Keynes also shares the same view. If proper planning is done in our country, there will be no scarcity of employment. But I must say that it should be productive employment. Today the workers in the organised sector force their employers to pay 10 to 20 times more salary as compared to their counterpart in the rural areas who get not more than Rs. 2 a day whereas both of them possess the same qualification and work under similar circumstances. It was a matter of chance that the former got employment in a Jute Mill or a Steel factory or a Paper mill. They are earning a huge amount as overtime allowance due to their organised strength. But their counter part in rural areas hardly get anything. It is, therefore, imperative that the Government should formulate a rigorous employment policy which provide employment to the maximum number of people and no one becomes shirker after getting employment. The bill brought forward has far reaching implications. It is, therefore, essential to give a serious thought over it.

[English]

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am very happy that the mover of this Bill is agitated and is thinking about the most acute and important problem of this country. He says that 60 million people are unemployed. I don't know wherefrom he got this figure. Whether it is 60 million or 20 million is not the problem. This problem itself is very acute. Ultimately it may lead the unemployed youth to be desperate. That

[Shri Brajamohan Mohanty]

way I fully agree out there is a deformity in the very Bill that has been brought forward before the House. The Fundamental Rights chapter of the Indian Constitution categorically says that the basic freedom, namely, freedom of profession is a fundamental right and excuse me Parliament has no authority to amend the fundamental rights. It is the basic structure of the Indian Constitution. Supreme Court has already said that basic structure of the Constitution cannot be altered.

Therefore, the point is that before the right to work is accepted as Constitutional mandate we have to limit the freedom of profession which is also one of the fundamental right. Many hon. Members mentioned about China and Russia. In China if somebody passes an M.A. degree that does not mean that he will be provided with employment according to his qualification. He can be asked to go and clean the roads or any other work. Only that way they have solved the unemployment problem. Their whole economy is under the control of the State. (*Interruptions*)

Inside China and Soviet Union now there is a movement to be liberal and they are going to be liberal. The demand is growing in Socialist countries to restore the values of democracy. Day before yesterday I saw in a leading Chinese newspaper saying that those who are dogmatic and conservative and oppose the present reforms that are being introduced they should be eliminated. There is social unrest and the younger generation is agitating through wall posters, etc. for more freedom.

I fully agree that it should be in the directive principles but not as a fundamental right. Unemployment dose may be given as is possible for the State. Let us be practical. So far as USA and U.K. is concerned they are paying unemployment dose to the extent of six days a week wages. The difference between the man who is employed and not employed is one day's wages. That is the unemployment compensation there but in India we have to take into consideration our financial condition whether or not we can finance to that extent. But this is a

very good idea and fully support that there should be some unemployment dose. At the same time, there should be a national debate in the country whether we should forgo, if not all, some of the fundamental rights. Some fundamental rights have to be given up. Then only we can achieve the targets. The entire economy must be fully under the control of the State. Otherwise it cannot be done. The Bill, as it is, has a number of deformities. It should be brought to a healthier life. Whatever is pragmatic, that must be incorporated in the Bill so that it can be implemented after we pass it. All the same, I would urge upon the Government to explore the possibilities for creating more employment opportunities.

Regarding our education policy, we cannot tell a person that you cannot have higher and higher education. You have to divert them to technical education. You can do that because that is provided in the Constitution. Everybody has equal rights.

Similarly, the basic concept of our Constitution has to have honourable changes. We must have a commitment to do that. You must be psychologically and mentally prepared for the total changes in the economic, social and political order. Only then we can achieve this objective.

[*Translation*]

*DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset I will thank our colleague Shri Thomas who has brought forth this Constitution Amendment Bill. I thank him because he has provided us with an opportunity to discuss a very important and serious problem facing the country today. He has enabled us to place our various views before this House on this important subject. This Bill contains two clauses. I will speak separately on them. In the first clause he has said "all citizens shall have the right to employment." I fully support it. But one thing we should keep in mind. It is necessary to provide employment opportunities to all but for that we will have to change our way of thinking also. Why I say so, I will tell shortly. Here I will say that we shall have to undertake our 'planning' on an entirely new process. The method of planning being

*The speech was originally delivered in Bengali.

followed at present is wholly inadequate to provide jobs to all. We can never provide employment to everybody with the present system of planning.

We shall have to work out how many men will be required for each job in our country. This estimate should be made for the net 10, 20 or 50 years. For example we should estimate how much food will be required and to produce that quantum of food what will be manpower needed. In this manner we should form proper estimates for all other fields also. We should work out the future need of manpower in every field. In every village and in the primary schools we should find out how many children are there and what is their I.Q. We should study their aptitude for various types of work. Hence we should keep in mind one more thing, According to our present thinking, we do not give equal dignity to all types of work. That is why the rich parents want their children to go in for white-collar jobs fit for the educated class, however dull headed they may be. They do not want their children to do manual work or work involving physical labour. That is why in the Universities we find that the not so bright students also get through and get degrees but fail to achieve much in later life. That is why I reiterate that unless we change our thinking, it will be very difficult to undertake the planning in a new way. Here one of our friends mentioned about China. I want to say that I went to Denmark several years ago and stayed there for quite some time. Now Denmark is not a socialist country, but I found that there was full employment. Not only that, the lowest pay there was 400 and the highest pay was 1800. Hence we shall also have to think about and rectify the staggering disparity prevailing here in our country. This has to be changed.

No Sir, I do not support the idea of unemployment allowance. This is because in my long experience I have seen that if one gets payment or allowance without doing any work, he becomes lazy and useless in most cases and he loses any interest to work. Hence I say that some help of course needs to be given to the unemployed persons till some suitable employment is provided to them but that should not be termed as unemployment allowance, it may be called an 'honorarium'. But this pay-

ment of honorarium should not be the same or equal to unemployment allowance. The recipient shall have to do some work in exchange. We have got plenty of work in our country to do which we do not get volunteers. For example I suggest that those who are paid honorarium, may be asked to undertake adult education programmes if they are educated. They can be entrusted with this work and it can be examined after one year whether they are doing the work properly or not. These people can be entrusted with the family planning programmes in their respective areas. There is a lack of consciousness among our people about various issues. These recipients of honorarium can be utilised to imbibe consciousness among the people about various things. There are many social laws but the people are ignorant of them. Those may be publicised through them. The ill-effects of untouchability, the need for national integration etc. can be duly publicised by these people. They can be utilised to oppose the secessionist and divisive forces and to counter their propaganda etc. What I am driving at is, that we should not pay unemployment allowance. Unemployment allowance means that an allowance will be paid and no work will be asked for in return. I say that they may be paid sufficiently to keep their body and soul together, but they will have to do some work in exchange of that. The rural folk can construct roads, in the villages, they can help to keep the villages clean. Many village ponds are so choked with weeds and dirty water that they are not usable. They can help to clean these ponds. The hon. Chairman will ring the bell now and I do not wish to speak after he rings the bell. Therefore, I will briefly say that there is no dearth of work in our country. The unemployed can be utilised for such developmental works on payment of an honorarium, But Mr. Chairman, Sir, to do all that we shall have to change our entire outlook and thinking. All the educated and rich people of our country want only children to go for the so called 'white collar' jobs, though they may be quite dull-headed. Therefore I stress that our entire outlook shall have to be changed. Mahatama Gandhi said that in a country, in a society, all work has equal dignity. But I regret to say that even today we respect a man according to the type of work he

[Dr. Phulrenu Guha]

does and the amount of money he earns. We do not treat all with the same human dignity.

Sir, I sincerely welcome this opportunity afforded to us for this discussion. Here I will urge upon the Govt. to bring forth a Bill based upon the Central theme and spirit of the present Bill after chalking out a detailed programme for the coming 20 or more years in this respect. They should undertake a totally new planning to provide food and work for all in the country. With that Sir, I conclude.

***SHRI A.C. SHANMUGAM (Vellore) :**
Hon. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Constitution amendment Bill moved by Hon. member Shri Thampan Thomas. I request the Govt. to bring forward a Govt. Bill on the matter and enact it.

The present Bill by Shri Thampan Thomas seeks to insert a new article 15A in the Constitution. Hon. lady member who just spoke before me rightly pointed out that it would not suffice if we pay some 100 rupees as unemployment allowance to the unemployed. There are millions of people in this country after spending huge amounts on acquiring degrees like MA and MSc are still languishing without employment. The noble objective of this Bill is not only to provide unemployment allowance to the unemployed but also to provide employment to them. Right to employment is sought to be made a justiciable fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution. Where employment could not be provided, the Bill provides for payment of unemployment allowance. The unemployed youth can utilise this unemployment allowance for their pocket expenses and for their daily expenses when they make their vain attempts to get at least menial jobs in some petty establishment.

The unemployed youth may also be used in socially useful activities on payment of half of the salaries offered by other organisations for similar work. The unemployed man power has to be harnessed for the good of the society.

Food, cloth and shelter are the three basic needs of human life. It is the basic duty of the Govt. to provide these to one and all. However, unless the Govt. provides employment, these basic necessities can not be provided to our millions. A revolutionary thinking is required on the matter. A plan has to be evolved by which unemployment is eradicated if not fully at least considerably.

I would like to point out on this occasion that even in many western countries unemployment allowances are provided to the educated unemployed. Such schemes are even in many of the advanced countries. Social security schemes to protect the interests of retired persons of the age group 50 to 65 years and other invalids are also there in those countries.

Sir, the financial memorandum appended to the Bill states that the implementation of the provisions of the Bill would involve expenditure of the order of Rs. 800 crores. That is not a big amount for the Indian Govt. Rs. 5 lakhs would be involved on staff requirement for implementing the provisions of this Bill.

Statistics point out that, at present, in India, 49% of the people are living below poverty line. Poverty is the direct outcome of unemployment. The number of candidates registered with the Employment Exchanges all over the country in the year 1981 stood at 1 crore and 84 lakhs. After a lapse of 4 years the number in 1985, rose to 2 crores and 62 lakhs. This year it has increased to 3 crores and 36 lakhs. Every year the number of registrants with employment exchanges is increasing by 38.61 lakhs. If we look at the State-wise figures, the unemployment rate is alarming. As per statistics available for April, 1987, 43 lakhs in W. Bengal, 32 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh, 29 lakhs in Bihar, 28 lakhs in Maharashtra, 27 lakhs in Kerala, 25 lakhs in Andhra and 24 lakhs in Tamil Nadu are unemployed. Special schemes must be brought forward so as to radically change this gloomy picture.

This amendment Bill must also provide for another thing. A person registers his name with an employment exchange. No

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

interview card is sent to him for 10 or 15 years. The candidate hears no response for many years and sometimes for ever. When luckily the time comes, he becomes over-aged for the job. Either the Govt. must guarantee employment to all those registered with employment exchanges within a stipulated time frame on seniority basis or they should not insist on this age limit. An amendment in this behalf should be made in the present Bill. Age restriction must be removed until we reach a stage when the unemployment rate is reduced to the minimum. Hon. Minister may kindly take into account.

So my sincere request is that the Govt. must remove this age limit for jobs. When Govt. cannot provide jobs for 10 or 15 years, why should they stick to this age restriction? It is sheer injustice to disqualify a candidate from employment merely on the ground that he has crossed the age limit. Govt. must consider my suggestion and remove this age restriction.

Unemployed graduates apply to banks for loans under the Self Employment Schemes. These youth have to run from post to pillar and wait for 1 year or 2 years. These bank officials harass the applicants. They ask the applicants to mortgage their houses, their property etc. If the applicants are that much resourceful, why should they go to banks for loans at all? These hurdles must be removed. Loans should be disbursed within 2 weeks to 2 months. Loans should be provided on the guarantee of the applicants' certificates. There should be no inordinate delay.

A person studies MA and MSc. He sells his property and invests the money on his education. If bank officials ask for property as guarantee where will the poor candidate go? At least, in future, this shameful condition must go.

Likewise, an applicant applies for loans for starting his self venture. The DIC recommends some 25,000 rupees. Banks reduce it to Rs. 20,000. But actually the applicant gets Rs. 15,000 and at the end, while the venture calls for an investment of Rs. 25,000 the applicant is given only Rs. 15,000. That means he will not be able to realise his objective. I invite the attention of the Hon. Minister to the path-

etic condition of the unemployed in the country.

The implementation and monitoring of loan mela scheme should be entrusted to a committee comprising MPs and MLAs.

75% of the vacancies in private companies should be filled through employment exchanges. Amendment to the relevant law should be proposed. As is the rule with Govt. companies and organisations, personnel for private companies should be also selected through employment exchanges. If not all the vacancies, at least 50 to 75 per cent of the vacancies in private companies must be filled through employment exchanges. This would provide employment to many waiting in queue for 10 to 15 years after registering with the employment exchanges.

Many of the unemployed youth meander here and there and indulge in all-social activities. Many of them take to naxalism. They loot men, rob people of their money and indulge in other anti-Govt. activities. They violate the discipline of the society. They become frustrated and despondent. This attitude grows in them from the very initial days perhaps from their school days for they clearly understand that they would not get employment after their education, Govt. must, therefore, inculcate in the minds of youth a sense of security as regards employment after their education. This is the need of the hour.

Sir, one minute.

Hon. V.C. Jain also spoke at length about the technical education in our country. Technical education must be spread far and wide in the country. Arts colleges must not be opened in future. The existing arts colleges must be converted into technical education centres. Today India requires only science and technical education. Technical education is the only way of ensuring employment to our millions. The Tamil Nadu Govt. is the torch-bearer in this direction. The Tamil Nadu Govt. has opened 20 engineering colleges. 100 polytechnics have been opened. 100 technical training institutes have been opened. Tamil Nadu Govt. is teaching technical education even at the primary level of school education.

[Shri A. C. Shanmugam]

Sir, admissions to all medical and engineering colleges should be made on merit basis through entrance examinations.

Hon. Member Shri Thampan Thomas may be pleased to learn that Dr. MGR has provided Rs. 100 as unemployment dole to every single unemployed who has studied upto SSLC. Rs. 200 has been provided to all the unemployed graduates as unemployment allowance. This is a far reaching achievement. What the present Bill desires to provide, our Hon. Dr. MGR has provided well earlier. The Tamil Nadu Govt. is standing as an example to all other State Govts.

All steps must be taken to generate employment opportunities in the country.

Sir, it is very sad to know that the Govt. has so far spent nearly 300 crores on Sri Lanka operations. Daily we are spending Rs. 3 to 5 crores on these operations with heavy losses to men and materials. We are not a big power. We are also not a rich country which can afford this type of expenditure. The military operations in Sri Lanka should cease and negotiations should resume. The enormous amounts being wasted on these operations can be fruitfully utilised for providing employment to many of the unemployed here in our own country. We must use purposefully our scarce resources.

With these words, I welcome this Bill by Shri Thampan Thomas and conclude my speech.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Sir, Shri Thampan Thomas is a nice man but in wrong company. I support the bill brought forward by him but I doubt it very much as to whether Government is in a position to include it in fundamental rights. Without making drastic changes in basic concept of our economic policies, inclusion of right to work in the fundamental rights will not be practicable.

At present 30 crore people are unemployed or semi-unemployed, who live in rural areas and occasionally find work. Whatever they earn from the work is insufficient for them and their families. With this meagre income they can provide neither education nor maintenance to their families. So we

can include these people in the category of unemployed. The condition of families of educated unemployed is such as they can maintain themselves at certain level. It is true that their families don't have economic resources. We must think about both of them equally their number is 30 crore. So this is issue required to be discussed thoroughly.

Government has formulated several schemes for this. But the concept of these schemes gives us a feeling that as these people are economically weak and are in need of upliftment, we are doing some sort of obligation for them. But weak and down trodden people have the right to come up and it is our duty to lift them up. This feeling is lacking in implementation in the programme. All these programmes, be it giving loan to them through banks or providing employment or implementation of programmes such as N.R.E.P. are having this drawback of not treating it as our duty to help them. The complaints about these programmes may be coming because we have undertaken the task in a manner as if we are doing them a favour. Therefore there is a need to change this basic attitude and unless we change our attitude, we will not be able to deliver the good. In present State affairs of our economic policies, whatever name we give to it, we are in fact helping the rich, who already have resources. All opportunities are available to them but our economic policies are not favourable to those who lack resources and no one comes to their help. As a result of this, discontentment is arising and as Rajhansji has rightly said that condition will further deteriorate. But I say condition will not only deteriorate but it has already started deteriorating and the foundation of our democracy is becoming weak day by day. In face of growing pessimism in our unemployed youth, this democracy can never become strong. Our dream of having a good system will never get realised. Therefore Government should undertake unemployment removal programme on large scale. Right now, the hon. Minister may express his inability in including right to employment in fundamental rights. But I would like to give some suggestions to which Government can give a thought.

My first suggestion is that there has been a ban on employment since 1984, which has caused much discontentment among people.

In government departments like Defence, Railways, Telephone Communication and F.C.I. work is being done through private contractors and as result of it they are being benefitted. Completion of work by Government labourers will reduce unemployment. Therefore I request you to immediately lift the ban on fresh appointment in Government which is in force since 1984.

My second suggestion is about minimum wages which should be uniform in all States. Haryana has fixed minimum wages at Rs. 21 but in Uttar Pradesh it is Rs. 7.50 only and in rest of the States minimum wages have been fixed around this figure. It will be wrong on your part if you think that one can manage with his affairs with such a meagre amount of Rs. 7.50. For meeting even minimum requirement of calories in take, one has to spend an amount not less than Rs. 21 to 22. Under NREP, wages are given @ Rs. 7-8 a day. Therefore I request you to fix minimum wages at Rs. 21-22 for labourers uniformly all over India.

Likewise, provision for pension to old man and widows be made. Similarly, an unemployment allowance @ Rs. 100 per month be given to all those persons who are registered with the Employment Exchanges for more than four years. For this, even if Government has to impose tax or cess on big industrialists who pay lakhs of Rupees as income tax every year, Government should take steps.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, to some extent I support the bill brought forward by the hon. Member Shri Thampan Thomas. I support the point raised about granting right to work as fundamental right to unemployed youth because this is the biggest problem facing the nation today. I want to speak on this issue which is more important than the Befors, Fairfax and issue of setting up Commission on Ajitabh. The number of registered educated unemployed youth is 2 crore but of uneducated unemployed in unorganised sector is numberless. Everyone should pay the maximum attention in order to solve this problem. I would request that a Parliamentary Committee should be formed. There are various Committee in the Parliament which give suggestions to the Government. Similarly

by reviewing in the committee suggestions may be given to the Government that committee should visit every state and talk to the representatives of youth association, Planning Commission, M.Ps, M.L. As and every community and take a decision after taking into account their constructive suggestions put forward to the Committee. Only then can we solve this problem. In the Employment Exchange registration is made for the unemployed youth. But what is the need of registration when the name remains only registered and no job is given. There must be an assurance for the job. Even there manipulation plays its role to such an extent that a person whose card was made in 1980 will not get a job whereas someone who has some influence gets a call even though his card was made in 1985. The prevailing problem of unemployment exists not noly in India but in all the countries in the world. I want to read out the things highlighted by I.L.O. in 1986 in one of its kooks Labour Statistics.

[English]

The percentage of unemployed youths rose from 42 to 47 in Uruguay and 40 to 44 in Chile between 1982 and 1985. The proportion decreased from as high as 75 to 73 per cent in COSTA RICA and 37 to 45 per cent in Singapore.

[Translation]

The programme of 'Garibi Hatao' started by Mrs. Gandhi in 1970-71 for the upliftment of the poor, is needed today. Regarding the Financial Memorandum, Mr. Thomas has told that the unemployed should be given unemployment allowance from the Consolidated fund of India. I do not support his argument as by giving allowance to someone, he will only be made weak, not strong. Therefore instead of gtvng unemployment allowance, the Government should set up new industries out of the founds mobilised for the unemployed youth which may help the unemployed in getting jobs. During Mr. Antulay's Chief Ministership in Maharashtra, it was seen that the with the money earmarked for the unemployed new industries were started which enabled 2 to 3 thousand youth to get jobs. How can the unemployment problem be solved unless new industries are not set up, sick industries are revived, much attention is paid to small scale industry, co-operative

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

movement is strengthen and industries are set up in the backward areas. In our country unemployment problem can be solved only if education is job-oriented. At present a number of doctors and engineers are sitting idle, leave aside the uneducated. I would request the Government that maximum attention should be paid to this subject. In the Seventh Five Year Plan, modernisation of industries has received more attention as compared to setting of new industry which should also be set up, but who will do that? Every state has its own discretion; their interests in the kind of industry to be set up vary. Therefore in order to set up all kinds of industries in the country, the Central Government should see to it that there is a universal policy for setting up industry. In the small scale industries we have seen that the bank employees indulge in a lot of malpractices in giving loans. If someone goes to the banks for asking loans, he is harassed to the extent that he is made to think that there is no need for him to set up a new industry and therefore leaves aside the very idea of establishing his industry. This has surely stopped the pace of industrial development of our country. So it has become a bounden duty for we people belonging to trade union to realise the whole situation and help in creating a condition in which more and more industries can be set up in our country.

The unemployment problem has assumed such an alarmingly proportion in our country that our unemployed youth have got frustrated and are becoming drug-addicts. The influential people make use of them in anti-social activities, terrorism and smuggling and their involvement in such activities is increasing regularly. Outside our country various such agencies are operating which take the unemployed people from here and get wrong kind of work done through them by giving them free board and lodging facilities. When they come back to our country after receiving training from abroad, they are forced to become an errand boy in smuggling activities in the country. They do all such anti-social activities only because we can not provide them job and sufficient food. Today if we have the right to property in our country, we should also have right to employment.

An important problem that is coming up now a days is that of employment for women. Though the problem of unemployed men is not less horrible but the problem of unemployed females is even more monstrous. They do not have any job opportunities. Since it is not proper to discuss state issues here in this House, I am not referring to the problem of my constituency, but we see it everywhere that the women do not get the same job opportunities as the men do. Leaving aside the primary teachers and a few women in Government service, they do not get an equal opportunity in the jobs like men, and their number is very less everywhere. I request that Government should reserve all the posts of teachers in primary schools for the women and ensure its strict compliance. Only then will the women get some opportunities for jobs.

I support my colleague who submitted here just now that the ban on new recruitment should be lifted immediately, and request the Government to do so because the tenure of 5 years is enough. Due to there being no new recruitment, no unemployed youth is getting a job in defence banks, railways, F.C.I. or any other Government Organization. The unemployed youth does not know where to turn since he has been deprived of jobs for so long. In this connection I submitted a petition to the Petition Committee but I received a very disappointing reply from the Government that this is not possible. I would request you that you should pay attention to this problem. Today postal orders are demanded from the unemployed people as a fee. Huge amount is demanded from them or else their application is not considered and they are debarred from getting service. When we have given concessions to the people belonging to S.C. S.T. and some other categories in the matter of application fee, and only nominal fee in the form of postal orders is asked from them, I would request you that all unemployed youth should also get this concession. I welcome the concessions given in the SC/ST but all unemployed youth should also get this concession. Thus a number of our talented youths who are otherwise academically and technically well qualified keep sitting in their villages and do not get any job because they can not even apply anywhere for want

of money. The Government should seriously pay due attention to this problem also.

Our Government formulates various plans for the poor, we discuss it in the Parliament too, and encourage them in various ways, so demanding postal orders from them can not be considered appropriate in any sense at all.

At the end; not taking much time, I would like to invite your attention to a serious matter that it should not be a precondition for an unemployed youth to get his name registered in employment exchange to get employment. Recently a judgement has been given by the Supreme Court to this effect and from Labour Minister also some such instructions have been issued that it is not essential to register names in the Employment Exchange to get job. I have already told how the cards are issued from the Employment Exchanges for interview by manipulation, that those who got their names registered in 1985 were issued interview call while those whose names have been registered since 1980 have been ignored. Secondly, when a circular has already been issued from the Ministry and Supreme Court too has given its ruling that direct recruitment can be done without taking Employment Exchange into confidence, then the Government should seriously consider it and take some suitable decision because this is a very big problem in our country. If you get information from Employment Exchanges all over country regarding the number of educated and uneducated youths to whom interview cards have been issued for the past 5 years, what manipulation was practised in that, what procedure was followed, and what are the causes behind not adopting a universal policy in issuing interview cards, then the whole situation will get clear before you. Such matters should be enquired into and action should be taken against the persons found to be guilty. Although I do not support this Bill, but definitely welcome the fundamental right referred to in it which will increase the employment opportunities in our country. With these words I request the Government that rising over the party-politics, a serious thought should be given to this problem and steps be taken to solve it.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH
 (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I whole

heartedly support this Bill. The most significant aspect of this bill is that people from both the sides have supported this Bill. Therefore, my submission is that the present crisis facing our country is internal crisis and has not arose from outside. In order to overcome the nation from this crisis, this Bill will prove most effective. Today terrorism, extremism and anarchism or the fissiparous elements are raising their ugly heads to disintegrate the country. Whether it is the case of Mr. Ghising or of tribals from Chhota Nagpur, their movement will come to an end with the passing of this Bill. No one will get a chance to grudge against the administration or the Government. In such a situation it is essential in the interest of the nation that you adopt it unanimously.

According to you it is difficult to bring out changes in the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. But I would say that if you have any patriotic feelings, if you are devoted to the cause of the nation and desire the unity of the nation, then it is not difficult. If you want to do away with the separatist and secessionist powers from the nation, then it has become essential that you should accept the points raised in this Bill.

You should alter the Part III of the Constitution according to which every person has a right to work at every place. Instead of the right, there should be a guarantee of work, and right to work should be included in fundamental rights. Everyone says that country comes first and the Government is insignificant, if Government wants unity in the country, then it should agree to this. Mr. Chairman, Sir, today as we are seeing unemployment reaching to an alarming high in the country and at the same time the poor, suppressed and the harijan youths not getting any jobs have moved towards extremism since the secessionists and separatist powers are misleading them and provoking them to indulge in such wrong deeds. In such a situation it is essential that they should get job guarantee so that their perverted minds can come to the right track. For this reason too, whatever has been said in this Bill should be accepted.

You affirm that unemployment is being decreased but this is not so, it is only

[Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh]

increasing every year. If you go through the live registers of the employment exchanges, you will find how many of our youths are unemployed today. Their number listed till this year comes to 3.5 crore, but as many as 6 crores persons are such who are living in villages and whose names have not even been written. Thus there are in all 9.5 crore literate and illiterate persons who are unemployed. You said that by opening I.T.I., technical training would be imparted. You have opened training colleges and physical training Centres in every State where people are imparted training but even the persons passing from these institutes are not getting any job. In this way people are starving due to unemployment. On the one hand we say that we will give technical education and on the other hand unemployed has increased to the extent that even those possessing technical education are sitting idle.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the biggest problem is that we are making fun of it. The question is that as to who will analyse the poverty of our nation, perhaps some middleman will do it. A research agency by the name of Policy Group has been formed, which will analyse this problem of our country and will be financed by the world Bank. This is for the first time that a foreign agency has been assigned the job of undertaking study about poverty in our country. This is all useless. What has the World Bank got to do with the poverty of our nation? How can one who has never experienced poverty analyse this problem? It would rather add fuel to the fire to the secessionist elements present in our country. This will give them impetus and strength in their evil design to destabilise our nation. In this context, you must see as to what the people in power are doing. Therefore, I would say that this Bill is good. The Constitution must provide right to work so that the people may feel assured that they will get work and therefore will not be tempted to join hands with fissiparous element. With a view to adopting right to work as fundamental right in our constitution, Government may perhaps have to make further amendments in the Constitution. We have to switch over from capitalistic way to that of socialistic way of development so that

right to work proposed to be enshrined in the constitution is brought into effect in letter and spirit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Government another point through you. The Part III of the Constitution has provided the right to its citizens to work wherever they like in the country, but the Congress Government in Bihar has set it aside. About 400 to 500 posts have been advertised in Jahanabad, which is a newly created district and in accordance with the provision made in Part III of the Constitution a number of boys from different districts have submitted their applications in duplicate—one for the office and the other for their employment bureau, and Rs. 30 were spent on them since they were required to be sent by registered post. Now on the 1st January, the Bihar Cabinet has taken a decision that persons belonging to Jahanabad alone will be considered for appointment. You can see it for yourself that the Congress Government in Bihar has scant regard for the provision enshrined in Part III of the Constitution. In this way, the Government of Bihar has violated constitutional provisions. The boys from the other districts who have been dispelled naturally develop a feeling of alienation about Jahanabad as if it were a part of a separate state, or a county. Those boys spent Rs. 12 lakh on this. What is all this going on? In all the states where Congress Government is in power, the same situation is prevailing. In this context I would like to tell you that when this is our condition in Bihar with regard to jobs and since you cannot provide government jobs for all, then at least employment can be provided for them.

Today, under the self employment programme whatever you are offering to the educated for their self employment, you must know that out of that money 15 percent is taken by the banks, 5 percent is pocketed by the other officers, thus out of his Rs. 35 thousand 20 percent is taken away and as much as Rs. 7 thousand is swindled by way of bribe. What profession will be taken up when in today's inflation, taking Rs. 7 thousand out of Rs. 35 thousand, he is left with only Rs. 28 thousand. He cannot do anything else with this amount but go on spending this money leisurely. The result therefore, is

that in this way, not a penny of bank's loan is returned.

Under the 20 Point Programme it was said that some poor people will be given jobs. It is true that a few poor people have been helped in getting employment. This is accepted by all the members of ruling party. But I want to ask that whether the poor will rise above with the help of the steps you are taking for the eradication of poverty? Honestly speaking, the question is where is all the money getting lost? On the 17th I was accompanying one of the Ministers of Bihar in connection with distribution of goods worth Rs. 50 lakhs. There was a gathering of about 500 persons, most of them were looking pale with wrinkles on their faces, even boys of 20 years age were looking as if they were old men. I asked them when the Government was providing them so much help, why they did not return the bank loan. Were all Indians dishonest people? They replied that it was not the thing. They are ready to do anything provided it benefits them and improves their economic condition. But with the things being provided to us, we can not support our families. How can we return the bank loan? By appointing a three member investigative Commission Government will come to know of the things going on and the type of goods made available by the bank. For example, substandard loudspeakers are being supplied to them that the price of best quality loudspeakers. All this is going on but no one care. People have got frustrated by repeatedly saying the same thing but things are not going to improve. Poverty will not be eliminated by this but the satisfaction is, at least things have been brought to the notice of the House.

Milch cattle provided to them do not give milk more than 3 kg. a day. The price of a cattle is shown Rs. 3000 as against the actual price of Rs. 2000, and thus difference of Rs. 1,000 is pocketed. No money has been paid by the L.I.C. for the cattle died even 4 years ago. You can well understand the plight of the poor people. Will they able to raise themselves above the poverty line or go down further? You think it over honestly. How will these things help the nation. The talk of safeguarding the nation will prove counter pro-

ductive and the people will have to be told that we are taking steps to guarantee work in the constitution. We talk about China. We know that it got independence two years after us but it is now far ahead of us. What is the use of praising our system and the Prime Minister if there is no food to eat. If we die on the road uncared for, will that be good? Restrictions on certain things can not be qualified as dictatorship if food and other things are made available to people. People will never raise their voice against the Government, if work and shelter are provided to the poor people. This cannot be termed as dictatorship because if someone abuses other then his tongue gets spoiled. I want to have full details from the hon. Minister regarding all this.

In 1955 a scheme was formulated by the then a Member and Minister Bhosaleji regarding making physical exercises compulsory for the children of middle and secondary schools. This scheme was approved by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru also but due to some unknown reasons it was not implemented. At present the DPED and CPED trained teachers are roaming around for jobs but are not being appointed in schools. You say that States Governments will implement it but the finances are not in the control of the latter. It is you to provide the funds for it. States Governments express their inability in implementing the scheme due to non-availability of funds from the Centre. I request the hon. Minister to get the DPED and CPED trained teachers appointed in schools in the States for the benefit of children. This will provide teachers with jobs and the children will also be benefited.

At last, I ask the Government to accept the Bill. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The allotted time is over and still many speakers are there to speak. What shall we do? Shall we extend it?

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Extend by one hour. Let us have some concrete suggestions which we can discuss.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shall we extend it by one hour?

MANY HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Let Parliament keep on deliberating the right to work in the next session !

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time is extended by one hour for this Bill.

[Translator]

*SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : I rise to participate in the discussion on the Constitution Amendment Bill moved by Shri Thampan Thomas. In Clause 2 his Bill Shri Thomas has suggested that two Articles be incorporated after article 15 of the Constitution. I quote :

“15-A (1) All citizens shall have the right to employment.

(2) Any citizen who cannot be provided with employment shall be given an unemployment allowance at a rate to be fixed by a statutory authority appointed by the Government of India.”

I do not know the intention of Shri Thomas behind bringing such a Bill. Some State Govts. are giving unemployment allowance. Is he aware of its financial implications on the concerned States exchequers particularly at the present situation ? Whether those State Governments have been able to solve the problems of the unemployed youth after paying such allowances ? Is the hon. Member aware of the present resource position of the country ? Is it financially feasible to pay unemployment allowance to unemployed all over India ? Has he ever thought that the payment of unemployment allowances to the youth may make them idle and they may not like to work. Has all these aspects been studied by the hon. Member before introducing the Bill ?

Sir, Shri Thomas has expressed concern in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill for the growing unemployment problem in the country and he has said that there are 60 million unemployed persons in India. I do not know how for this figure is correct. According to a study made by the Government the total job requirement in the country is estimated to be 48.58 million including backlog of 9.20 million and the total backlog of unemployment at the

beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan was 9.20 million. However, efforts are being made to provide job to 40.36 million people. Still there will be a backlog of 8.22 million by the end of the 7th Plan. The number of jobseekers in the live register of the employment exchanges rose to 301.31 lakhs by the end of 1986. Only 3.51% out of that have been given employment so far. So the number of people got job out of the total number of educated unemployed, SC ST, women and handicapped registered, in the live register of the employment exchanges is very low. This no doubt is a matter of great concern for everybody. It is not a problem of a particular State or a problem of a particular area, but it is a grave problem for the whole of India. But the tragedy is that when any problem is discussed in the House the opposition Members focuss their attention on a particular area, i.e., Kalahandi district in Orissa. Perhaps they feel that their discussion will remain incomplete if they do not mention the problem of Kalahandi. Today, also while moving his Bill Shri Thomas stated that the unemployment problem is very grave in Kalahandi. He further stated that 400 starvation deaths have taken place in that district. I do not know from where he got this figure. He said that he read about starvation death in Kalahandi as reported in some newspaper. Some journalists are deliberately giving wrong picture of the situation in Kalahandi. Their reports are misleading. They only know that benefit they get out of such publicity. Another journalist has stated that. It is the journalists and politicians who have politicised the Kalahandi situation. The same journalists went to Kalahandi. He just wanted to verify one example after another example. First of all, he heard one girl by name Vedamati, who was reported to have died of starvation. When this journalist went to Kalahandi he saw that she was very much alive there. Again, there was another instance. Another man was reported that he is suffering from starvation and he is going to die. The journalist reached to that man also. When he reached there, he saw the foodgrains were being dried in the sun. This journalist asked that man : “what is this ?” He said : “no, no. I have borrowed this

*The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

from my other people." So, this is the real thing. When the journalist was moving a little distance, the whole thing disappeared. He was taken into the House. The same journalists asked that gentleman again: "Do you have any vegetables to spare?" Then, he said: "No, no. I am suffering from starvation and how can I spare anything." At this stages, the people around him just started laughing which was definite indication not to believe it. Therefore, Sir, you can imagine as to what is the true picture inside there. If they want that journalist's opinion, I can produce the whole article before them. So, this is not the real thing which is existing there. We admit that poverty is there, unemployment is there in Orissa also. As far as the whole of Orissa is concerned, there is the historical reason, the and the political reason also. For a longer time, we did not have a separate province. We have got 40 per cent Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population and besides that, every year, we are facing one after the other natural calamities. So, this is the situation. In this situation, this is the attitude of the Opposition. Is it that... poverty is there only in Kalahandi? We must go through the historical background of that area. Kalahandi was a feudal State. Even after independence some feual lords got the chance to represent the district for a longer period. During that period they did not do anything for development of the area. So today there is poverty and there is increasing unemployment in that area. They must understand this. So taking the plea of poverty in Kalahandi they cannot criticise the Government. They should not criticise the Government for the sake of criticism. They should go to Kalahandi and see the situation work is being done with the blessing of Indiraji and Rajaji. It has been said that there is no drinking water in Kalahandi. I challenge that it is not true. The problem of drinking water is there in a small number of villages. But there is drinking water in many village. Sir, Hon. Prime Minister has visited Kalahandi when he was in Kalahandi he saw water coming from tube wells. So to say that there is no water is not correct. I would like to submit that in the whole of the country. We are facing unemployment problem. Once again I would like to say that I share the concern expressed by Shri Thomas for the growing

unemployment problem in the country. But I cannot appreciate his bringing Kalahandi situation within the purview of the discussion.

Sir, I join Shri Thomas in expressing my concern for the increasing unemployment. It is true that we have to generate employment for providing fob to the millions of jobseekers. But how could this growing problem be tackled. I think first we have to change the planning system of our country. We have to change our man power planning. So in this context I would like to stress upon vocational education. The existing education system has not been able to help all the students in getting jobs after they come out of the schools and colleges on completion of their studies. Therefore we are lagging far behind the advanced countries in providing employment. However, Government of India are now laying great emphasis on the promotion of vocational education. The students, on completion of vocational courses, will certainly be able either to get jobs or starts some vocation or the other. For that Government are also assisting them under different self-employment schemes.

Then take the case of employment generation in rural areas. The Government of India have introduced schemes like RLEGP, NREP and IRDP etc. which are generating tremendous employment opportunities for the rural people. But very often we receive complaints about the irregularities in the implementation of such schemes. We should identify the irregularities and each and every representative of the people irrespective of party, should see that the real benefit reaches the rural poor. These programmes should be implemented more vigorously because they are meant for the weaker sections of the society who near to be raised above the poverty line. If we fail to solve the unemployment problems, it will agitate the unemployed people which may pose danger to the country. So we have to identify the areas that have the employment generation potential.

Now, the children of the age ground of 15 years comprise 42% of the total population. After a few years they will seek jobs. If we will not be able to provide them any job or engage them in any vocation, there will be an explosion. Therefore,

[Smt. Jayanti Patnaik]

we have to plan for their employment him now only.

The large investment in industrial projects located in different areas can provide considerable direct employment. Industry plays a pioneering role in providing jobs to the unemployed. But it is regrettable that many industries are falling sick due to some reasons or the other. The majority of the country's work force is engaged by the textile industry. But the textile industry is now heading towards a crisis. Many textile mills run by National Textile Corporation have been closed down and a large number of textile mills are on the verge of closure. The situation in powerloom sector is also no better. We are also not paying proper attention to the promotion of handloom. These sectors have got employment potential. Many foreign companies are creating markets for their products in India. There is also under utilisation of indigenous capacity in our country. Our trade policy is not employment-oriented. There are many districts which were identified as 'No Industry districts'. We have not yet set up industries in all those 'No Industry districts'. As you know, those districts are located in backward areas. If we will not development infrastructure like transport, communication etc. in these areas, how any industry can be set up there. Unless we set up industries in those districts, how can we provide employment to the local unemployed? Now take the case of agriculture. A major part of unemployed labour force resides in rural areas and, therefore, most of the additional jobs need to be created in the agricultural sector and in agricultural related activities including agro-based khadi and cottage industries. If we invest one crore of rupees in an industry, we can provide employment to 200 people. If we spend one crore of rupees in service, we can give jobs to 600 persons. But if we invest the same amount in agriculture, we can generate employment for 2200 people. Therefore emphasis should be laid on the development of agriculture. The setting up of small scale and cottage industries and particularly agro-based industries should be encouraged. Fishing also generates employment. Therefore poor fishermen, small and marginal of armers should be assisted to have small ponds for fishing.

Sir, tourism has got tremendous employment potential. In India, tourism sector is estimated to generate employment for about 4.5 million people including the direct employment provided to about 1.5 million. It provides employment opportunity for the educated. So a strategy should be formulated on tourism development and measures should be adopted to attract private sector involvement and to bring hotel and travel industry within the reach of average middle class tourists. At the same time, hotels of the choice of foreign tourists should be set up in different places of tourist importance. Luxury hotels should be set up where it is very necessary. Hotels can help in providing employment to educated unemployed. Facilities should be provided to train our youths in the field of tourism and hotel management. There are a large number of new hotel projects in several parts of the country at various stages of completion. But many more hotels need to be set up as we have to accommodate the growing number of domestic as well as international tourists.

As I had stated earlier, industry in India offers considerable employment opportunities to people. Whether it is major or medium or small scale industry, it needs modernisation. Then only more and more people can get employment in industry. Ancillary units and small scale units have a vital role to play in economic development of the country. So, steps should be taken for the development of these units.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the welfare of another weaker section of our society, *i.e.* women. They are also facing unemployment problem. In the rural areas the female workers are mostly engaged in the agricultural activities. They are 80% of the total work force working in the rural areas. They are classified as agricultural labourers. They work in the field right from the beginning of the sowing season till the harvest period is over. A serious drought situation has prevailed in the country this year. You can imagine the plight of this large workforce in the absence of any work in the fields. As the hon. Member Kumari Mamata Banerjee said, the women are half of the society. If women are unemployed, it means the whole society is unemployed. If they are facing this problem, it means the whole

country is facing the problem. As such we have to provide work to female workers. The Government should give a serious thought to this issue and find out some solution as to what kind of work can be provided to this large workforce. Besides, there are educated women living in the villages. All women may not be highly educated but they have some education and training or the other. We must think of their employment. It has been said in this House that primary teacher jobs should be provided to women only. Sir, in Orissa this policy is being adopted. Only women are appointed there as the primary school teachers. But I would like to suggest that the teacher's posts should be filled up by women candidates upto secondary school stage also. This policy should be adopted all over India. They are still backward despite the fact that they are getting education. They want to stand on their own feet. They want to earn for themselves and their families. So they must be provided with employment. But they live under certain limitations and hardships. We have to create favourable atmosphere for them to go for work. After joining the service, the women, particularly the unmarried girls, find it very difficult to get accommodation. So more and more working women hostels should be set up. The working girls and women must be provided with accommodation in those hostels with adequate security.

Apart from this, there is another class of women who comprise the majority of female population. They are housewives. They play a major role in building the society. They look after the family. But they should also be treated as unemployed. We have to provide them some work so that they can spare sometime and earn money to supplement the income of their husbands. Then only the female society can have some status and they will be inspired to work in a better way to build healthy families.

I would like to suggest that we should have our planning in such a way so that the unemployed women of all kinds can be provided with employment in agriculture, rural development activities and industry. I urge upon the Government to make a study of the problems of unemployed women proper manpower planning should be made.

Necessary training should be provided to the women. Then we have to create good atmosphere so that they can work with dignity. Then only the unemployment problem among women will be solved.

With these suggestion, I conclude my speech.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is almost over. We take up Half and Hour Discussion or else I will give an opportunity to one Member to make a speech.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I have given my name. I want to say something, so far as this Bill is concerned. Later on, I will initiate Half and Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you can conclude by 5.30 P.M., it is all well.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) ; Mr. Chaiman, I heard Mr. Thampan Thomas making a strong plea on the Right to Work. I have not seen the Bill.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Why are you speaking then ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I know the subject. It is not necessary to know the Bill. I want to support the strong plea made by Mr. Thampan Thomas. The Treasury Benches are represented properly this time in making a strong plea with the Central Government that they must come forward with a measure like this. I remember what happened during the recession. It is called in economics "Wall Street Crash" in 1929 and there was a British Economist Lord keynes and at that time he propounded, "payment of doles as a remedy for recession throughout Europe and America." That means, it is intolerable to see unemployed youth and he proposed payment of doles for the purpose of work that was not available. Our country is teeming with millions below the poverty line. Here the fundamental question is that of population where you remember, people are living in juggas slums and sometimes it is impossible for them to provide employment because employment is directly connected with the problem of population. Ultimately, we have to decide whether we shall honour our commitment.

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

After all, we have Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution of India. We have some fundamental problem and one problem is the solution to the population problem. Another gigantic problem is ensuring universalisation of education. We have not honoured this commitment. So far as Right to Work is concerned, although it has not been accepted as the Fundamental Right, that is what Mr. Thampan Thomas was telling when he compared our country with Libya. These are two different situations. Libya is not to be compared with India. India has so many achievements to its credit. In fact, in the third world, India has surpassed many countries and it can compare itself with the most developed countries of the world. But we have patchy development. Sometimes we have some sectors where you are feudal, where you are totally advanced. There is no comparison. But he was inviting your attention that the tiny country like Libya is committing itself and accepting Right to Work. When you go to Soviet Russia, when you compare Moscow and Leningrad with American cities, sometimes you feel because of the consumerism these are no cities. But when you start understanding the life in Soviet Russia, you will answer to your conscience that it is a better and nice country where three things are guaranteed. Right to Shelter and Right to Employment are there.

[Translation]

In our country a film titled "Roti, Kapda our Makan" was made.

[English]

That is a pathetic picture. I saw people sobbing in the cinema hall. But you can tell them that in the Soviet Russia, for millions of people *Roti*, *Kapada* and *Makan* are guaranteed.

We had committed ourselves to the establishment of a socialist pattern of society. Therefore, I make a strong plea with the Central Government that we must honour this commitment and we must give *Roti*, *Kapada* and *Makan* and we must accept the right of people to work.

17.31 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

[English]

Payment of Wages to Beneficiaries of NREP

MR. CHAIRMAN : We now take up Half-An-Hour Discussion.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Chairman Sir : There was a question on NREP raised in this House. In that, no specific answer was given, although the Minister answered that question. He knows the grass root levels in India through his own experience. So many of us raised so many questions; and therefore we are here to raise questions because we wanted specific answers to specific questions. Merely saying that the State Governments have been asked and advised to take action will not solve the problem. The Government of India has a responsibility in so far as these laudable scheme are concerned and that responsibility must be properly discharged.

As the Minister knows, a substantial reduction in poverty, unemployment and underemployment has been stated as the goal of the successive Plans—starting from the First Plan upto the Seventh Plan. The Sixth Plan wanted that the population below the poverty line should come down, will come down and must come down from 50% to 30%. Apart from this commitment, these very good and laudable schemes like IRDP—which wants endowment of productive assets and NREP—aiming at the creation of additional wage employment opportunities—and another scheme which was found by the Government of India for the hard core rural landless, the RLEGP—which aimed at providing 100 days employment in a year—were launched. These three specific schemes are actively inter-related.

As far as NREP and RLEGP schemes are concerned, they aimed at providing supplementary employment opportunities to those who are presently unemployed or under-employed. But in the long run these schemes will turn out to be grants for sustenance because nobody cares whether they invite people to take employment for a long term and to the needy people for a reasonable period of time.