

home work because of linking of insurance with the unemployment allowance is very essential. It may not be possible to give the entire money which we require but at least partial payment will be there. Why do you say that is different and this is different? You can link both. Now, the insurance business can be done not only by the L. I. C. but it can be spread out throughout the world. So, the other countries will also share our burden. I would again impress upon the Government to start some work in this regard, that is, unemployment allowance linked with insurance. That will solve the problem. Under the Constitution, we cannot make it a basic right but the Constitution says that every able bodied person is entitled to work. We have to provide them work. On the other hand, if we make a start in this regard, definitely we are going to solve the problem. I would again request the Government to reconsider my Bill and start a scheme in some other manner.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA: I have already explained that I value the suggestions of the Members and value more the suggestions of the mover of the Bill and so I would request the Hon. Member to come to me and have a discussion at length and then we will see what we could do.

SHRI B. V. DESAI: I welcome the Hon. Minister's suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Member may now withdraw his Bill.

SHRI B. V. DESAI: I beg to move for leave of the House to withdraw the Bill to provide employment to all citizens of not less than 25 years of age, payment of unemployment allowance and for unemployment insurance scheme.

MR CHAIRMAN: The question is.

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide employment to all citizens of not less than 25 years of age, payment of unemployment allowance and for unemployment insurance scheme."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B. V. DESAI: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

— — —

17.45 hrs.

Unemployment Relief (Age Bar Exemption and Other Amenities) Bill

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA) Sir, I beg to move*

"that the Bill to provide unemployment relief, age bar exemption, exemption from application fee to apply for jobs and various other amenities to the registered unemployed, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I am aware that a cat will never produce a tiger and that the capitalist system will never do away with unemployment. I am at least not so naive as to imagine that. That is why the purpose of my Bill here is very limited. I have not proposed even some urgent relief for all the unemployed youth knowing fully well that that is absolutely impossible for a country following the capitalist path. That is why I would particularly request the Minister in-charge of Labour and Employment to go through my Bill seriously and to see that really there

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Smt. Geeta Mukherjee]

are some provisions which can alleviate some of the anguish of the registered unemployed.

Sir, I would not go in for the figures about what will be the total number of unemployed etc. after the Sixth Plan. It has been said here. But surely, Sir, I shall definitely underline one factor about these registered unemployed. As the position stands as per Government's latest figures, between January, 1980 and June, 1981 there has been addition of one lakh a month to the number of registered unemployed.

This is the situation that is growing,

Now why have I particularly taken into consideration the question of the Registered unemployed? It is because as everybody knows that in our country the poorest of the poor scramble to find. Some work but most of them cannot come to register. They often are starved to death. And, as I have already said that this system can never give them the proper deal or even in reality a right to live. Only a fraction manage to register. This system should at least make some attempts for some people.

Now, the registered unemployed are the most vocal sections of the unemployed youth in our society and vast majority of them belong to poor and middle classes. And my proposals relate to them. Unless the Government make them feel that some concern is being shown to them, it will be absolutely impossible after some time to manage even for the Government. This is not for making a political capital that I am bringing this Bill. My proposals here deal with unemployment benefit as well. But I shall not illustrate that part of my proposals to-day because just now we have had a lengthy discussion on it.

I will need some more time than the time available to-day. I will take that part of my Bill next time.

I have also proposed unemployment benefit, but not for everybody. I have proposed that this unemployment benefit be provided to those who have registered themselves as unemployed, and are on the list for two years, have not found a job and whose family income does not exceed Rs. 5,000/- a year. Thereby, the other financial calculations which are being made, running into thousands of crores of rupees, will not apply here. (*Interruption*)

Kerala and West Bengal Governments have come forward to do something. But that does not mean that I cannot propose something different. I have said in the very beginning that I have brought this Bill with a very limited objective. If the Central Government passes this Bill, it will not take away the right of any State Government—if they extend the facilities. But at least it will make the other State Governments who are now not doing anything, to do something. It is very simple.

The question as to from where finance will come etc. and the total impact of it—I will deal with next time. To-day I want particularly to draw attention to some other clauses of my Bill. These are about the age bar exemptions. As the situation now stands, the age limit for unemployed persons is different in different States. In the Central Government, as far as I understand, the maximum age limit for entry for All-India Services is 26 years. For Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it is five years more. Of course, for technical services, this limit is relaxed. But in some states the position is different. Somewhere it is 30 years, and in others it is in between these two limits. My proposal is that this

age limit has to be relaxed to a very great extent. I have proposed :

“If the Employment Exchange fails to find a job for a registered unemployed and such registered unemployed becomes over-age, he shall be exempted from age bar, provided he gets a job when his age is five years less than the pension age of the post to which he is appointed.”

Those who are in the Employment Exchange register should get an opportunity not to be outcast as far as the Central Government employment is concerned, because the age of 26 has passed. We have seen with our own eyes the great worry of the young people, who come for employment. They come to the Ruling Party probably more for getting jobs. My young friends on the other side may be knowing that thing ; how they feel as soon as the age of 26 is coming near. It seems that they feel that half of their life energy is gone. We all know that this is a tremendous source of great disappointment and desperation.

Now everybody knows that this system will not produce enough jobs for all, but, at least, the scope should remain open for them. Since the employment prospects are not so bright, the Government may not be able even to keep the promise as they are making. So, at least, this age bar exemption should be provided for them.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : It needs your cooperation also.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I understand, Since you cannot give them jobs, why bar them ? Let the opportunity remain open for them ! Let them try for jobs. You also try for giving them jobs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister said, she seeks your cooperation also.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : My cooperation is always there. There is no dearth of our cooperation.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : We want your cooperation also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is what I also said.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I had said in the beginning that my Bill does not go upto my conviction. It is only within the framework of the present society.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should be happy that the Minister seeks your cooperation.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Ram Dulariji is always very nice. We will really be very glad to give our full cooperation to her.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : I wish you could have spoken in Bangla.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I would have loved to do it, but there is a difficulty of the language.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then I could have also understood her.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : This is my one of the points on age relaxation. I think it is quite possible seeing that there are some States which have gone upto 35 years, as far as my information goes. So, it is not impossible. It will give at least some relief to those agonising hearts; it may be illusive but some relief is there at least for those young people who are seeking jobs; there is some possibility.

My second point is with regard to doing away with application fee. This is also some relief for those young boys who are seeking jobs and who are unemployed. This is for those who are applying against advertisements in the papers. This application fee should be done away through the machinery of Employment Exchanges. The Employment Exchange should give them a certificate and on the production of that certificate, they should be exempted from paying application fee. Why I am saying this is because for a young man who is unemployed, this is really the only source of succour at that particular moment remains because he goes on applying and applying for jobs not knowing what will happen. If he has to take this application fee from his parents, then sometimes it becomes impossible. I do not expect a lot from this Government, but this exemption

at least would give him some relief, as far as this application fee is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much time would you need to speak on this.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I want some time to speak on this. But if you allow me to speak next time, then I stop here and shall continue next time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can continue next time. The House stands adjourned to meet on 24th August, 1981 at 11 A. M.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, 24th August, 1981, Bhadra 2, 1903, (Saka).