

pendents, on retirement, voluntary or otherwise, or on the death of the Government servant and for other matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

17.35 hrs.

PROVIDING OF EMPLOYMENT,
PAYMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT
ALLOWANCE AND UNEMP-
LOYMENT INSURANCE
SCHEME BILL BY SHRI
B. V. DESAI

SHRI B. V. DESAI (Raichur): Sir, I beg to move:

"That 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, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill which I have introduced in this Session is a very important one and it pertains to the burning topic of our country as on today. It is providing employment, payment of unemployment allowance and unemployment Insurance Scheme Bill.

Sir, as every one of us is aware, the problem of unemployment is very acute and it has acquired a dangerous proportion in our country. As we know, not only unemployment is there among the educated, but the countryside uneducated farmers and labourers also are either unemployed or partially employed. Various schemes and suggestions were being made either in the Parliament or by the Government agencies. But the dilemma is much more and what we are thinking of is, due to increase in population, in 1980-81, the calculation of the Planning Commission regarding the number of unemployed by the end of the Plan, viz., 4.66 million, may go wrong. Therefore, even without taking into account the increase

in population, their calculation as on today is also bristling with inconsistencies. All these social tensions amongst the youngsters and the dissatisfaction which they are airing are because they do not get any avenue and scope for employment. In fact, Government have adopted the definition of 'Welfare State'. The founding fathers of our Constitution have incorporated in the Directive Principles 'the right to work'. I quote Article 41 of our Constitution:

"The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want."

In this connection, our State has taken the step with regard to old age pension and compulsory education. Although it is not very effective some beginning has been made in this regard. But, unfortunately, so far as unemployment allowance is concerned or the problem of unemployed is concerned, on numerous occasions the Members of this august House and voluntary agencies outside this august House have drawn the attention of the Government, but they have refused to take any step in this regard.

With this background I thought to focus the attention of this august House and the Government in particular. I have, therefore, introduced this Bill.

I need not explain the dimension of the problem because every one of us knows it. The indiscipline in the youngsters either in the college or outside is basically because of the fact that after education they do not get employment and therefore, they get frustrated. It is our duty to find a positive way to see that all the

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educated people, if not all most of them get some work. I do not say that all the educated can be absorbed in the Government agencies or the Government Departments or elsewhere but in some way or the other i.e. by way of self employment opportunities or by allowing them to have their own method, they should be gainfully employed. In this connection, I would like to state that the Central Government is very reluctant to tackle this problem i.e. to give unemployment allowance or to guarantee employment, whereas many States like West Bengal, Panjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, in one way or the other have tried to tackle the problem. Although they may be successful only to a very little extent nonetheless they have tried their best. Unless the Central Government comes to the help of the States I do not think any State Government can be successful. Therefore, what I suggest through this Bill is that unemployment allowance may be given to those who have attained the age of 25 years or above and have registered themselves with the Employment Exchange.

This Bill is a little bit different from the different approaches made previously. The question of ways and means has to be looked into when such measures are undertaken. Different States have got either the Food For Work Programme or the Employment Guarantee Programme. They are confronted with lack of resources or inadequate resources. Therefore, this Bill has taken that aspect into cognizance and I have linked it with an insurance scheme. An insurance linked employment guarantee scheme is prevalent in different countries of the world. A proper study can be made in this regard and a proper legislation can be brought forward.

Clause 5 of the Bill provides:

"An unemployment Insurance Scheme shall be started so as to provide for a special fund for the

grant of subvention under this Act. Then, Clause 6 provides:

"The citizen shall be eligible to receive the benefit under section 4 subject to his furnishing a declaration to contribute to the Unemployment Insurance Scheme immediately after securing employment."

This tag is there that a person who gets employment is taxed to a certain extent so that the general pool is enriched by this subscription apart from other sources of ways and means which the State Government or the Central Government may provide for. If we want that employment is generated throughout the five year plans and that youngsters who are educated do not indulge in indiscipline type of agitations and other things, we should see that they are provided with jobs and, till such time, they are given some allowance or other so that the subsistence level is guaranteed.

For example, the State of Maharashtra has the Employment Guarantee Scheme, guaranteeing work to all able-bodied adults in the rural areas who register themselves for seeking un-skilled manual labour. In Karnataka also, a similar type of scheme is there. But they provide only for hundred days because of lack of resources. It is not a question of 100 days or 150 days. In some States, what they have done is that at least one adult member in a family is provided with employment. There are certain shortcomings in these schemes and in the implementation also because of lack of resources. Unless the Government of India comes in a big way, I do not think unemployment problem can be solved because it is very difficult at a given time to provide employment to almost all the able-bodied persons in our country. Therefore, some alternatives has to be found out.

I think, most of the countries, the Western countries and other developed countries have adopted this scheme. It is a sort of social burden on

those who have got employment which they have to bear for the sake of those who are unable to get employment opportunities. This should not be grumbled. Therefore, with this end in view, I have brought forward this Bill. It is not a very elaborate Bill. But what I wanted to bring to the notice of the Government is the importance and the urgency of this unemployment problem as envisaged in this Bill.

With these words, I move the Bill and, I hope, the Government will take necessary action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That 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, be taken into consideration."

I find, there is one amendment by Shri Ram Singh Yadav. He is not there. So, I call upon Shri Hannan Mollah to speak.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill.

I am happy that this burning question has compelled our friends from that side to raise this issue and I know that they will be compelled to withdraw it without any assurance from the Government.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Plenty of assurance.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: First of all, we have to recognise the right to work as a fundamental right before we attempt to solve the unemployment problem or to grant unemployment relief. If we recognise this as a fundamental right, then it will be the responsibility of the Government to take the burden so that the young men and women of our country can be provided with jobs.

The unemployed young men and women are ~~not~~ **unwanted citizens**

of the country. They are the property and human resources of our country. They can help in the task of building up a new nation and in achieving material progress by working hard and increasing production.

The unemployment problem is a gigantic problem. The latest figure of the total unemployed in urban areas who registered their names in the Employment Exchanges comes to 1,62,00,000. Of this the educated unemployed figures are as follows:--

Matriculates.	45,55,373
Higher Secondary.	20,67,433
Arts graduates.	6,75,469
Engineering graduates	2,02,620
Medicine graduates	14,776
Other graduates	6,74,073

The total figure of the educated unemployed comes to 81 lakhs and odd.

This is a very huge figure.

And yet we have not taken into account the rural people, the agricultural labourers, the poor peasants and other poorer people, who never register their names in the Employment Exchanges and who are unemployed. They do not go to the Employment Exchanges. If we include them also, the figure will reach up to 8 crores.

1/5th of the population should be the working force and in our country the working force should be 12 or 13 crores.

We have seen that 8 crores of people are unemployed in our country. The working force in our country is, therefore, very much less. From this, we can imagine the magnitude of the unemployment problem that we are facing. All the problems that we are facing in our country are related to the problem of unemployment. The rural people and the agricultural labour are not getting jobs. The sharecroppers and small peasants are

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

every day evicted from the land. That is also increasing the number of unemployed people. In the urban areas, new factories are not coming up in good numbers. Regarding old factories, the markets are sinking and, therefore, the workers are being ousted from their jobs; in this way, the number of unemployed is increasing.

We know that this is a capitalist system, and this system requires a big unemployed force to bargain with the working class so that they can have cheap labour in the working force. In the interest of the capitalist system, they are maintaining this big number of unemployed people. We know that this is a capitalist system; it is the landlords and the monopolists who are getting all the gains in the society. For this reason, the number of unemployed people is increasing. This is creating problems to our country, to our freedom, to our national interest, to our national integrity, to our democratic set-up, and even to law and order. All the problems are today related to this problem of big number of unemployed people.

We know that, in Assam, it is because of the policy of those landlords and exploitation by big capitalists that 15 to 16 lakhs of people are unemployed. Those who have created this problem, who have made the people unemployed, are instigating them against another section of the people: they are telling the Assamese boys, "You are unemployed because the Bengali boys are taking away your jobs". What is happening in Gujarat? The same thing is happening there also. One section, that is, the upper-caste Hindus, are being instigated against the Harijans by being told, "If the Harijans come, you will not get your jobs". The resources are limited, the opportunities are limited,

but there are so many people who are demanding jobs. So, there is this problem. If we do not go into the crux of the problem, we will not be able to solve it. If we do not consider this at this stage, a day will come when the question will arise whether our democracy will survive, whether our national integrity will survive, whether even India will survive, if we pay only a lip service, then we will not be able to do anything in this regard. It is the economic system to which it is related. In the socialist system, 21 countries have recognised the right to work as a fundamental right and they are taking all responsibility for that. In the capitalist countries, there are 28 such countries in the world who have provided unemployment relief to the unemployed people. But our Government is shy of accepting this demand.

My hon. friend has mentioned that some State Governments are trying to provide unemployment relief. But the Finance Minister and other Ministers are again and again refusing to take the responsibility, they are saying that they are not going to take any responsibility for shouldering this burden. The State Governments have limited resources; out of those, they are trying to implement the Directive Principles. But the Central Government do not feel any urge to implement the Directive Principles...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. Member like to continue next time?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11.00 a.m. on 4th May, 1981.

18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, May 4 1981/Vaisakha 14 1903 (Saka)