

which I do not agree at all, nevertheless, since he has given an assurance for the future, I do not wish to divide the House on this question. I prefer to let the assurance stand and then we will hold them on to it. On the basis of the assurance, I do not press my Resolution to a vote.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon Member the leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

17.12 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: PROBLEM OF
UNEMPLOYMENT

SIIRIMATI MAYA RAY (Raiganj): I beg to move that:

"This House, while appreciating the efforts of the Central Government to eradicate unemployment, is of the opinion that the Central Government in co-ordination with the State Governments should work out a time bound, phased programme to solve the massive unemployment problem facing the country and take immediate positive and concrete steps to tackle the same."

My intention in bringing this Resolution before the House is to focus attention of all those concerned on the burning problem of unemployment, the solution of which brooks no further delay. And I say this with all the emphasis at my command. In doing so, I am not suggesting that the Government is not aware of the problems, or that it is not intending to deal with it in all urgency. In fact, I make bold to say that no government so far has dealt with this issue in all its magnitude, with the sense of earnestness and purpose as the present government of today. This is demonstrated by the findings of the Interim report of the Bagavathi Committee on Unemployment. The Dantwala Committee has been set up. The Joint Consultative Council on Community Development and Panchayat Raj has also been constituted. The National Committee on Science and Technology is preparing a scheme to absorb

unemployed engineers. The Bagavathi Committee Interim Report has disclosed a number of constructive methods of ameliorating this dread disease in our society. Thus the Government is certainly aware of the dimensions and the urgency of this problem.

I shall not meander into the realms of statistics while talking about unemployment for the simple reason that I for one do not believe that anyone is in possession of the correct figures or a correct estimate of the context of this unemployment problem. Therefore, the first task before us is to find out the exact nature and dimension of the problem. This we can do, by firstly, taking a sample survey of all the employment exchanges in the country. This should be done by the Central Government and State Governments to ascertain the actual unemployment figures in the live registers, bearing in mind that it is not all the unemployed who actually register themselves in these employment exchanges, for various reasons which one need not go into here or elaborate because, sometimes I must confess these employment exchanges do not work in the way they should.

Secondly, the State Governments should undertake a blockwise survey of the unemployed in each block, in each district and in each State. From my experience of travelling extensively in the districts of my State, that is to say, West Bengal, I can tell you that such blockwise surveys will disclose the most horrifying spectacle. The spectre of unemployment casts an ominous shadow across the length and breadth of our country enveloping it with despair. If this problem is not tackled vigorously, purposefully and with fortitude, the very structure of our society stands imperilled.

The right to work is enshrined in the Directive Principles of our Constitution. The youth of any nation is its potential wealth. It is this vast section who are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to participate in the building of this country. If this eagerness and energy is not canalised and harnessed for the development of this great nation, we shall be swept by a tidal wave of frustration, grief and revolt, the magnitude of which will sweep aside everything before it and there will remain in its wake, only chaos.

I say this with full responsibility for we are standing literally at the edge of a pre-

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cles and with absolutely no time to lose. On the other hand, I say this also, that if adequate and immediate steps are taken which show tangible and concrete results in each State, our countrymen are patient people, our countrymen are wise people and will be willing to give us time to see our programmes through. I have that much faith in the people of our country. But, on the other hand, if they see only feeble attempts at dabbling with this petrifying problem, we will not be forgiven and the consequences will be chaotic. Therefore, this formidable challenge has to be met and meet it we shall.

There has to be a classification of the Rural and Urban unemployed. This is essential and of the utmost importance in order to be able to grapple with the situation. It is only when we have gauged the exactness of the problems with which we are dealing, that we can combat it. This much is certain, that the unemployment spreading from one end of the country to the other and engulfing it, is massive and gigantic. Therefore, while this survey goes on, immediate and short-term measures have to be taken to generate employment to as many as possible, as quickly as possible. While long-term plans are being formulated, immediate projects to absorb as many unemployed as possible have to be launched.

To deal with Rural unemployment first, as everyone knows, there is periodic seasonal unemployment. To eradicate this, double and triple cropping has to be introduced in order to minimise these periods, and also to provide for the absorption of more of the agricultural unemployed. Secondly, there must be electrification of all the villages. In this regard, I would urge the Central Government to pay special attention to those States where this programme of rural electrification has not been vigorously implemented, such as, Assam, Tripura, Orissa, U.P., West Bengal and Bihar. Haryana is in the happy position of having a 100 per cent rural electrification and the degree of rural affluence is a joy to see.

Rural electrification is essential for the other methods of solving this unemployment problem and that is minor irrigation and agro-based small scale industries. There is

no need to go into the reasons as to why these States have not progressed as much as they should have done in electrification, or to hold any *post mortem* on this, where many might say, Haryana was able to achieve 100 per cent electrification so why were the other States not able to do so. The fact remains that these areas have not progressed and to leave these regions in that state of backwardness will not help the rest of India for the winds of socio-economic and political unrest travel fast and wide and may equally envelop the other parts of India with a speed unimaginable.

With electrification and power being conditions precedent, the next question that will arise is where the funds for minor irrigation and agro-based industries are to come from. Here, our financial institutions can come forward and help in a very big way by granting loans against the guarantee of State Governments. The security is there for them. Minor irrigation schemes and schemes for power can never be a loss. They will be perfectly safe investments, and the financial institutions will not be in jeopardy. Low capital intensive areas with possibilities of converting them technologically into small-scale industries will offer opportunities of absorbing labour force. These, in their turn, can feed large industries upon expansion over the years, building up a concrete network.

With the advent of agro-based industries and small scale and cottage industries, opportunities for self employment are increased, because round about these small industries will grow a small nucleus of society requiring social services and all this will help. Enlarging the scope for self-employment would reduce the exodus of labour from one region to another and prevent excessive concentration in large cities.

The next way of touching the fringe of this problem is through an intensive programme for primary education. The Minister of Education has already submitted a scheme for this. More teachers will be employed in rural areas only in respect of primary education which, in its wake, will bring building programmes for schools and provide for the absorption of some of the labour forces in the rural areas.

We should keep in mind the fact that every village in India must have minimum facilities for medical treatment, primary education, power, double and triple cropping, one cottage or small scale industry run on power and one community hall. If these minimum requirements can be given to each village, it will create an infrastructure, opening out further avenues of rural employment.

Much of all that I have said has been said over and over again, and none of these is original. What I am trying to emphasize is that the time has gone for mere planning alone in a vacuum and in committee rooms. These committees also come out with variations of the same theme. We must now spread out into every district and go right down to the grassroots to see that there is overt action, and implementation is effected in a forceful and dynamic manner so that its impact may be felt by the people in every strata.

Good works never suffer for want of funds or enthusiasm. What fills one with despair is to see corruption seeping through insidiously gnawing away into the vitals, which might lead to a total collapse. This we will not allow, we must not allow, for, future generations will not forgive us.

Our performance must match our words. With proper co-ordination of agricultural programmes and rural industrial projects we will surmount these seemingly indomitable hurdles.

Next I come to the problem of urban unemployment. Regarding urban unemployment, the whole concept of employment has to be changed. We cannot be content to see a nation of pen-pushers emerging. If I talk of West Bengal, the State which is groaning under the weight of 28 lakhs of unemployed persons, the maximum of pen-pushing jobs that can be found at the outside will be less than for one lakh of persons. This cannot be so. We have our eyes fixed on a technical revolution which will inevitably usher in a technological society in a technocratic age, and with that in view, the whole concept of manual labour and working with our hands has to be brought in emphatically.

This debilitating process of building up a nation of suburban white-collared citizens

must go, and due regard and respect must be given to those who work literally with their hands.

We have to build up a society, where after a hard day's work, we can walk into a concert hall and perhaps find a sweeper sitting next to a High Court Judge enjoying the songs of a classical singer. Let us truthfully admit, Mr. Chairman, that such a society does not exist in our country to-day. The fabric of our whole social structure has to change and all barriers broken through, where a man is accorded due respect for his contribution to society, in whatever form that may be.

This then brings us to introducing vast changes in our educational system. This idea of a college education being a 'must', to give one as social status, must go. It is no use turning out college graduates one after another *en masse* to enable one to say 'He or she is a respectable citizen'.

College education should be shrunk into a thin stream, on a selective basis at an early stage, on the basis of a high order of intellectual capacity, for the sole purpose of higher education and research.

The content and structure of secondary and technical education must be changed to give it a high degree of priority. It is these institutions that must turn out persons fit for jobs. Persons coming out of these schools must be entitled to a job, and that job must be one that they do with their hands.

This means emphasis on vocational training for the general cross-section of society with a thin stream being diverted to the colleges for specific purposes.

What is the picture to-day? Every one goes to college, turns out to be a graduate and then looks askance when a manual job is offered to him. This attitude will not solve our problem and we must face the reality.

This concept of working manually can be accelerated by decentralisation in industry, for example, by linking large-scale enterprises with small-scale feeder units. Increase in the number of jobs in the tertiary sector, which is inevitable when the urban commu-

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nity will be increasingly demanding various services, and for these types of services, technological training has to be provided.

Here again I feel if proper guidance and publicity is given to this need for changing our social ideas, this is not an insoluble problem and we will be able to achieve a lot.

Here, I would urge others to help. It is not only the Government that can help in this, but the Press and Opposition also can help, because I feel they also want a wonderful and a beautiful country to come into being. Maybe, we have political differences as to the methods of achieving it, but our ultimate goal is the same.

Lastly, I wish to say that there must be more imagination with regard to industry. The industrial growth is approximately 1.8% today—I am open to correction. This must be increased to 8%. How? Why not concentrate on our export trade so that we too may launch out in a big way in the international world market?

For instance, the idea of having three major free ports, one on the eastern coast...

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member may continue her speech next time.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : Please allow us to move the amendments.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY : I do not like violating any convention, but this is my first speech...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may continue when the subject comes up next....(Interruptions) Now it is 5.30 and we have to take up the half-an-hour discussion. This is her maiden speech. She may take her own time. You continue next time.

Dr. Luxmi Narain Pandeya.

17.30 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

UPGRADATION OF CITIES AND TOWNS

श्री. मन्मथीनारायण शर्मा (मंसौर) :
समाप्ति थी, दिनांक 11-8-72 को समाप्त

मंत्री जी ने कुछ नगरों के वर्गीकरण के बारे में जो उत्तर दिया था उससे कड़ा असतोष और भ्रम है। इसके बारे में मंत्री महोदय अपने स्पष्टीकरण में बताएं। मेरे समझने में थोड़ी कमी हो सकती है लेकिन मंत्री महोदय ने जो उत्तर दिया उसके अनुसार मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि उन्होंने लोक सभा में और दूसरे सदन अर्थात् राज्य सभा में जो उत्तर दिये हैं वे परस्पर विरोधी से लगते हैं। राज्य सभा में 22 अगस्त को प्रश्न क्रमांक 1187 के उत्तर में उन्होंने बताया था कि शहरों का वर्गीकरण ए, बी-1, बी-2 और सी इन क्लासेज में किया गया है और उन्होंने सख्या बताई है कि ए श्रेणी में 4 नगर, बी-1 में 7 नगर, बी-2 में 11 नगर और सी में 233 नगर है। साथ-साथ उन्होंने बताया कि 70 अन्य नगरों को भी सी श्रेणी में रखने या उनके पुनर्वर्गीकरण का निश्चय किया गया है। लेकिन इसके पूर्व जो (क) भाग का उत्तर दिया है उसमें पहली फरवरी, 1971 से जिन चालीस शहरों को वर्गीकृत या पुनर्वर्गीकृत किया गया है उसमें नाम दिए गए हैं। मैं एक बात जानना चाहूंगा एक तरफ तो मंत्री महोदय ने अपने उत्तर में बताया कि 1971 की जनगणना के आधार पर कुछ शहरों का पुनर्वर्गीकरण करना चाहते हैं, उन्होंने किया भी है और दूसरी तरफ उन्होंने उस निर्णय को 1 फरवरी से भी लागू किया और 1 अगस्त से भी लागू किया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ आखिर 1 फरवरी से उन्होंने लागू किया उसका आधार क्या था? क्या तब तक जनगणना के आंकड़े उनको उपलब्ध हो गए थे? यदि नहीं तो कुछ नगरों को उस आधार पर सी से बी में ले लेने, बी से बी-1 में ले लेने और बी-1 से ए में लेने को कहां तक युक्तिसंगत माना जा सकता है? और यदि ऐसा करना आवश्यक भी था तो ऐसे नगर और भी थे जिनकी जनसंख्या उस समय भी उसी प्रकार प्रमाणित की जा सकती थी जिस प्रकार से इनकी की गई है और इनको ए, बी, सी क्लासेज में अपग्रेड किया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ इसका आधार क्या है? प्रारम्भ में जब यह जो स्कीम लागू हुई तो बहुत पहले से ही कि किसी बड़े नगर में कार्यरत केन्द्रीय कर्मचारियों