

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday April 25, 1988/Vaisakha 5, 1910
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Who is being sent to Karnataka ?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Shri Dandavate was being asked to go to Karnataka. A big crisis has gripped the State.

MR. SPEAKER : Will you not feel lonely in his absence ?

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : You are torpedoed at Madras.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : At least I shall feel lonely.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Problem of Unemployment

*796. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA† :
SHRI RAM DHAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Annual Report of Labour Statistics brought out by the International Labour Organisation wherein it has been stated that the average of the unemployed persons in the world during the year 1985-86 has come down in 31 countries whereas this average has registered an increase only in 12 countries;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up for implementation any time-bound labour oriented schemes to totally wipe out unemployment from the country within a stipulated period;

(c) if so, the detailed outline thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

(b) and (c). Details in this regard are given in Chapter 2 of Volume-I and Chapter 5 of Volume-II of the Seventh Five Year Plan document. According to para 2.29 of Volume-I, the projected scenario of a continued GDP growth rate of 5 percent per annum, a fast rate of growth of agriculture, combined with faster rate of growth of Industry together with specific employment generation programmes would, it is expected, make possible the provision of jobs to all in the labour force by the year 2000.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : According to a report, there will be 632 million young Asians who will be seeking employment by 2,000 AD. Out of them, 313 million will be in India. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will explain what has been the impact of various Government schemes and what are these these schemes during the first three years of the Seventh Plan.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : First of all, I would like to inform the hon. Member that at the end of 1987 there were a total of 302.47 lakh job seekers who were registered with various Employment Exchanges. Government have taken steps for generating in the Seventh Five Year Plan by National

Rural Development Employment Programme, the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee programme, schemes on the training of the Rural Youth Self employment, Schemes for Promotion of Self-employment among educated and uneducated youth and Self-employment Programme for Urban Poor and this has totally benefited the unemployed. I would like to give the figures. The first three years of the Seventh Plan were very encouraging and we were able to create jobs and also create employment opportunities for many younger people in the country. Under National Rural Employment Programmes, we created 952 million mandays of employment.

Under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Schemes, we produced 727 million mandays.

Under Training of Rural Youth and Self-employment Programme, we created 4.75 lacs mandays.

Under Scheme for Promotion of Self-employment among educated and uneducated Youth, we created 4.47 lakh mandays.

Under Self-employment Programmes for Urban Poor, we created 3.19 lakh mandays.

All of them have benefited about 4.75 lakhs, 4.47 lakhs and 3 19 lakh persons.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : Sir, I am lucky that through you, we can discuss the new slogan 'Bekari Hatao'... (*Interruptions*). But the hon. Minister has not specified the Schemes, which I had already asked for.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : First I read the schemes and then I gave the figures.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : I would put my second supplementary. What is the number of registered unemployed persons. Can you specify that all of them are genuine ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Yes, I am sure that question has been put. According to my figures, at the end of 1987, there were a total number of 302.47 lakh of job-seekers registered with the various Employment Exchanges in the country. A sample survey was done in 1972 which is very interesting...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please repeat that figure.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : It is 302.47 lakhs. I would like to inform the hon. Member through you, Sir, that all job seekers who are registered in the live register of the Employment Exchanges are not the people who are unemployed. We did a survey in 1972-73 where it was revealed that 27 per cent of the registered job-seekers who were responded were employed. Another 7.3 per cent were students. Then, we did another survey in 1987. This was done as a sample survey in Kerala. According to the sample survey which was conducted in 1987 by the Department of Economics and Statistics, Kerala in three Employment Exchanges in Trivandrum, Ernakulam and Palghat, there were 32 to 41 per cent—it is very revealing of the registrants in employment. Another 9 to 24 per cent were either students, house-wise or too old to work. This has left only 34 to 59 per cent of the registrants as actually unemployed in the three Employment Exchanges.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Datta Samant.

SHRI RAM DHAN : What about me ?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : You were not present.

SHRI RAM DHAN : No. I was. Perhaps you did not notice my presence.

MR. SPEAKER : You were not sitting where you usually set. What can I do if you were seated some where else.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He is in the right position. He is in the Opposition.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Your kind attention is needed.

MR. SPEAKER : They are my Masters. All of you are Masters.

SHRI RAM DHAN : Just now the hon. Minister gave the number of unemployed persons registered with Employment Exchanges. He has also stated the number of

such persons included in the number of registrants who are already employed somewhere or they are students. These people have been classified separately. The students are compelled by their circumstances to accept any job that comes their way. But they continue study side by side and as soon as they get a job of their liking, they abandon their studies. Is it proper to make a separate category for students registered with Employment Exchanges? But the greatest problem is that of organised and unorganised sections just like organised and unorganised labour in this country. The Government talks of Employment Exchanges but the scenario in rural areas is quite different. Many people over there can get work for only part of the year which is called seasonal work. On the other hand, there are many who are occupied throughout the year. But these people work under compulsion because they are bonded labourers. Besides this, many workers get work under contractors. May I know whether the Government will set up a Committee to find out the number of unemployed people not registered with Employment Exchanges? How many people work for only 2-3 months in a year and remain idle in the remaining period? One can see such situation so often in Harijan and Adivasi areas. I saw this type of a situation on a recent visit to Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask a question instead of giving a speech.

SHRI RAM DHAN : I am not giving a speech. There are 250 bonded labourers working in kilms in Sultanpur which is Shri Rajiv Gandhi's constituency (*Interruption*).

[*English*]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : The hon. Member has put questions relating to unorganized labour—people who work part-time, seasonal labourers. I have the figures in the employment registry. It is mostly in towns and sub-towns. We have formed a Committee under National Commission for Rural Labour, which was under a Member of Parliament, Mr. Daji. There were also two Sub-Committees formed by the Consultative Committee, one under Mr. Das Gupta and the other under Mr. Somnath Rath. Mr. Somnath Rath is not here; his was the one which had to identify and give suggestions on non-agricultural sector, that means,

labourers who are unorganized, and on the agricultural sector. These two Committees were there and they have identified certain problems, and the Government has already recommended back to the States to see that they are implemented.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : This is a serious problem which, in this House, I have always raised. There are seven crores of unemployed in this country—double the official figure which the Minister has given. In every house there is one unemployed person. In Bombay the number is eight lakhs...

MR. SPEAKER : Ask your question.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I am asking a categorical question, Sir. In the private sector, as per your Seventh Plan report, the employment potential has gone down by 1.5 per cent—it is in the interim report. To the big houses you have given money, but the employment potential has gone down by 1.5 per cent. In the public sector the Government has given the voluntary retirement scheme and three lakhs workers are gone. There also the potential has gone down from 21 lakhs to 19 lakhs. In the Railways the employment potential is 16 lakhs and it has been stagnant for the last four years. It is there in the Report. In textile and jute, the potential has gone down by 2.5 lakh workers. These are mentioned in the reports of the Government given in this House.

MR. SPEAKER : Ask your question.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : My categorical question is this. Slogans have been given yesterday in Tamil Nadu like '*Bekari Hatao*'. It is a joke. I am going to raise this issue in the Zero Hour. It is a joke. (*Interruptions*) By 1990, after ten years, you are going to remove '*Bekari*'...

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question?

DR. DATTA SAMANT : My categorical question is this. What are the concrete plans of the Government to remove this '*Bekari*'?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I would just like to inform the hon. Member that in my reply to the first question, to hon.

Member Shri Ramoowalia, I have given the different schemes of the Government. As far as increasing of employment is concerned, I think, he will be able to answer more because he was personally responsible to get people to be jobless...

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I take objection to this. Why is he making such a statement ? (*Interruption*.)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Because you have been accusing us. Government is doing everything possible in this direction...

DR. DATTA SAMANT : The Minister must withdraw his statement.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I will not withdraw it.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : It is the government policy which has failed. The Minister must withdraw his statement...

MR. SPEAKER : Why should he ?

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I am a responsible Member. I was talking about government policy...

MR. SPEAKER : You said certain things against him.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I was talking of government policy...

MR. SPEAKER : There is nothing unparliamentary about it.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : These are in the mid-term reports of the Government. Why is he talking like this ? It is the Government's policy which has failed.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly keep your astrology to yourself.

[*English*]

Sit down now.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I have just given you figures of the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan and the figures are very encouraging. What I am telling you is that the Government is doing everything possible to generate jobs for younger people and unemployed people...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him speak.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : It is the people—now I don't want to mention—who are trying to do everything possible to see that...(Interruptions)...By talking loudly, you do not create jobs.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right. There is no question.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please keep your forecasts to yourself.

[*English*]

I am not concerned with *Bhavishyananis* here.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, N.R.E.P, R.L.E.G.P., I.R.D.P, and the Desert Development Programme are all employment-oriented. May I know how the Government is going to achieve its aim of providing a job to at least one member per family ? The people of India are eager to know as to what concrete steps Government intend to take in this direction.

[*English*]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : The Government is determined to create jobs. This is our Prime Minister's programme... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Let there be answer.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : The Government's ultimate aim is to get job for one in each family. This was stated by the Prime Minister also in every programmes under the 20 Point Programme. And the Government programme is aimed to see that more jobs are generated in the country. We have identified the employment generating area specially in the Seventh Plan Document.. This is the development of irrigated farming, optimum utilisation of irrigation potential...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : There is not much time left for questions. You can seek a discussion on the subject later on.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : That is why, I am saying it is all right. That will be discussed. If there is anything very important, we cannot devote all the time for one question. That is why, I say, you can have a discussion later on. I cannot have all this time for one question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker Sir, my question has not been answered. My question is about providing employment to at least one member per family.

MR. SPEAKER : You can seek a discussion later on.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I have already given a reply. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Price of Fruits and Vegetables

*803. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of fruits, vegetables and pulses have registered increase in the last few weeks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to reduce their prices ?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The prices of some fruits, green vegetables and pulses have increased in the last few weeks.

(b) The main reason is the seasonality factor.

(c) Various schemes have been drawn up by different States/Union Territories for

increasing the production of these commodities. NAFED, Mother Dairy, Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazar and Civil Supplies Corporations of different States are retailing essential commodities including fruits and vegetables, in the open market to stabilise prices.

[*English*]

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : There has been price increase in respect of food-grains, pulses and vegetables. The wholesale price and the consumer price have been increasing everyday. Prices of the commodities, specially the essential commodities and primary articles also have continued to rise. Sufficient stocks are not available in the retail sales centres marketing the essential commodities. The cost in the open market is also increasing day by day. The poor consumers are the hardhit due to increase in prices.

May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that some merchants and businessmen are creating artificial shortage of essential commodities including vegetables and fruits ? If so, what are the steps proposed to be taken against these persons ? I would like to know whether the Government have any proposal to reduce the export of fruits and vegetables in order to see that all these commodities are available in plenty in the open market thereby stabilising the prices of these commodities.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : So far as the availability of the commodities that are referred to in the question, *i.e.* fruits, vegetables and pulses are concerned, I don't think that in the case of fruits and vegetables there is any shortage; sufficient quantity is available. In the case of pulses we are increasing the production. Fortunately, the crop is very good this year and some pulses are being imported also. We are not exporting any pulses. Fruits and vegetables are available. Because of drought, no doubt, the production has not been upto the mark.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : In the reply given by the Minister it is stated that States and Union Territories have drawn up various schemes to increase the production of these essential commodities. May I know from the Hon. Minister what percentage has been supplemented by the States and Union