

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 13, 1980/Phalgun
23, 1901 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Labour Force

*41. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total labour force in the country as on 1st January, 1980;

(b) the classification thereof; and

(c) the employment potential in comparison with the increase in the labour force?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). According to available projections the Labour force in the country as on 1-1-1980 was 285.18 million of which 234.01 million were in the rural areas.

(c) The Government proposes to give the matter a detailed consideration in the background of formulating a new plan so as to maximise creation of employment potential keeping in view the increase in the labour force.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state how many of the urban labour force are employed and how many of them are unemployed? It may also kindly be stated whether registered or unregistered, the rural labour force has increased over the years and how many of them are employed and underemployed. How many days in a year are they employed? I

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would also like to know whether there are reports of unemployed starvation deaths because we think that there are starvation deaths.

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: Sir, as far as the rural labour forces go, in the rural areas there are 151.03 million males and 82.98 million females and as far as urban labour force is concerned, there are 41.37 million males and 9.80 million females. Now, regarding the unemployed labour, the Employment Exchange figures say that in 1979 there were 14.3 million jobless people in the country. He has referred to the reports about the starvation deaths. Now, this is a point which the Opposition harps on that there are starvation deaths in the rural areas. But as far as Government is concerned, there is no report of starvation deaths from any part of the country.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know from the hon. Minister whether unemployment has been increasing throughout all these years? And according to an estimate of the previous Government, the urban unemployed exceeds 2.2 crores and as far as rural unemployment is concerned, it is at least 4.0 crores. But if you include underemployed also in this figure, it would work out to 10.0 crores. Is it a fact or not that every year, starvation deaths are occurring because 70 per cent of our country's population are living below the poverty line? What steps the Government are going to take to see that all are gainfully employed so that they do not die due to starvation?

MR. SPEAKER: Before the hon. Minister answers this question, I would request the hon. Members to ask pointed questions, and not make the time during Question Hour, so that the time of the House is utilised usefully. The

questions should be relevant, the replies should be relevant and I would see to that.

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: The hon. Member has referred to the question of unemployment over the years. I do not know which particular period he means. If we take into consideration the years of the Congress rule from 1951 to 1977, according to the statistics that are with us, about 120 million jobs were created in the country. In 1972-73, the unemployment figures were 16.8 millions and in 1977-78 the figure of unemployed persons was 16.8 million which clearly shows that the increase of 33 million in labour force was absorbed by the jobs created during that period by the then Government.

As far as the Janata Government is concerned, during the last three years of their rule, they promised to create 11 million jobs, but they were not able to do that. The growth rate in industry has declined very much and the unemployment figures also show that they have failed to honour their promise.

Regarding the plans of the Government for removal of unemployment in this country, it is very well known that this Government is committed to create employment on a large scale, but at present, the economy is in a shattered position. First, the economy has to be put in order and after that is done, the various plans and projects of the Government would be implemented. Government believes in a new Five Year Plan and that Five-Year Plan would be employment oriented.

SHRI A. T. PATIL: What steps does the Government propose to take to check the movement of labour force from rural areas to urban areas and to see that the labour manpower is gainfully employed in the rural areas itself?

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: The only way to check the movement of labour force

from rural areas to urban areas is to revitalise the 20-Point programme and this Government has promised to do and by this new jobs would be created in the rural areas. Particularly, in the rural areas, it is the landless people, the marginal farmers, small farmers, etc. who need to be taken care of. The entire 20-Point programme is meant for creating jobs for these classes of people, which belong to the weaker sections of the people. By revitalising this programme and by various projects, the Government wants to absorb the labour force in the rural areas itself so that they do not migrate to urban areas.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that there has been deceleration of employment in the organised industry and in the public sector industries and whether he is also aware of the fact that this deceleration has been caused by large scale retrenchment, closure, rationalisation, automation etc. In view of this, the general employment has gone down in organised industry and public sector in our country. What particular and specific steps does the Government propose to take with a view to providing employment in organized and public sectors?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered that question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: No, My question is whether he is aware of the fact that this deceleration of employment..

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered. Now Mrs. Dandavate.

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE:

अध्यक्ष महोदय, अनएम्पलाएड लेबर फोर्स में महिलाओं की संख्या कितनी है, उन की क्या परसेन्टेज है? 1951 के बाद से अन-एम्पलायमेंट में महिलाओं की संख्या बढ़ती गई है—क्या यह सच है? 1977 के बाद जब जनता पार्टी सत्ता में आई, उस समय महिलाओं ने अपने सभाष दे कर विमोन्ज-अनएम्पलायमेंट को एक स्पेशल-इंशू बनाने का

अनुरोध किया था। पिछले कई सालों में एग्रीकल्चर से इण्डस्ट्रीज तक, अनआर्गेनाइज्ड से तक, आर्गेनाइज्ड तक, महिलाओं में बेरोजगारी बढ़ती गई है—इस के बारे में हमने बहुत सोच-विचार कर कुछ खास सुझाव रखे थे और यह कहा था कि महिलाओं को ज्यादा रोजगार दिये जाने चाहिए। क्या वे सुझाव आपके विचाराधीन हैं या नहीं—इन के बारे में बतला दीजिए।

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: I have already given the figures regarding the labour-force—male-wise and female-wise. As regards her claim that during the Janata and Lok Dal regime, jobs were created for women, I don't have figures with me. She has referred to the Adult Education Programme. Everybody knows about that programme, how that programme was run by the RSS elements, and how that programme has been discredited.

श्री राधनगीता मिश्र: मान्यवर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ—देश में व्याप्त बेरोजगारी को देखते हुए क्या आप सिद्धान्तः एक ऐसा नियम बनायेंगे जिस में एक आदमी को केवल एक काम दिया जाय? ऐसा देखने में आया है कि एक आदमी के नाम से खेत भी है, बिजनेस भी है और उसमें सर्विस भी मिलती है। क्या आप कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था करेंगे कि एक व्यक्ति को एक ही काम मिले?

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: This is a suggestion for the consideration of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Now Question 42.

Report for Wage Board for Journalists

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*42. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:**
SHRI NIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether Government have received the Wage Board report for Non-Working Journalists and Working Journalists;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof; and

(c) if not, when the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). The Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Non-Journalists Newspaper employees had submitted interim reports in 1977 recommending interim wage rates. They did not submit their final reports. The Wage Boards were replaced by Tribunals for Working Journalists and Non-Journalists Newspaper employees on 1-2-1979. The reports of the Tribunals have not been received yet.

(c) The recommendation of the Tribunals are expected shortly.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Already, it is in the newspapers that the recommendations of the Tribunal have excluded the employees of the news agencies. Is the Minister aware of this? They have protested against this exclusion, and are going to take a one-day protest action throughout the country on the 18th March. Has the Government received the representations of the employees of the news agencies regarding this protest? Is the Minister in favour of reconsidering the Tribunal's award, and recommending to the Tribunal to include the cases of the employees of news agencies, so that their discontent is removed,

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK: Let me tell the House that there are no recommendations by the Tribunal; they are only proposals. The recommendations of the Tribunal would only be available to the Government after the proposals have been duly circulated, opinions received, consultations made among the various parties with the Tribunal and Tribunal gives its final recommendations to the Government. Only after that we will be in a position to consider the recommendations of the Tribunal. It is a fact that the Journalists' Associations are very much perturbed over non-inclusion, as they say, of their