

difficulty in fully implementing my suggestion and in view of that I accept their suggestion that I should withdraw my resolution.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member wants to withdraw the resolution. But Rule 241 requires me to put the amendments to the vote of the House.

An Hon. Member: When the resolution itself is being withdrawn, what is the point in putting the amendments to vote?

Mr. Chairman: Proviso to rule 241 is quite clear. It says:

"Provided that if an amendment has been proposed to a motion, the original motion shall not be withdrawn until the amendment has been disposed of."

Shri M. L. Dwivedi (Hamirpur Dist.): In this connection may I remind you that to the Orphanages Bill moved by me there were several amendments.

Mr. Chairman: Whatever might have been the practice adopted on that occasion, the words of the proviso to this rule are quite clear. I have no option but to put the amendments to the vote of the House.

There is one amendment by Shri Uma Charan Patnaik. I find that there is some dissent or disagreement. I would like to hear the hon. Members if they want to convince me on that. Then I need not put it to the vote of the House. It is for Shri Uma Charan Patnaik: if he wants to withdraw his amendment, then the question can be solved, otherwise I will have to put it to the vote of the House. May I know if he is prepared to do so?

Shri U. C. Patnaik (Ghumsur): With a clean conscience I would not like to withdraw it.

Mr. Chairman: Then I would put it to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that immediate steps be taken to provide for an attractive system of military training for all High School and College students so as to equip them for all-round nation-building activities in times of peace as well as for all-out national defence in war emergencies."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That for the original resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that while imparting military training to all High School and College students, advantage should be taken not only of an expanded National Cadet Corps but also of other military and semi-military organisations in this regard."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: Then Mr. Gopalan's amendment.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore): I beg leave to withdraw it.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: Then, the main resolution. Has the Mover leave of the House to withdraw his resolution?

Hon. Members: Yes.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE UNEMPLOYMENT

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore): I beg to move:

"This House is of opinion that immediate steps be taken to arrest the growth of unemployment in the country and to provide relief for the unemployed."

[SHRI PATASKAR in the Chair]

I thank you, Sir, first of all for allowing me to move this very important resolution before the House. At the

[Shri A. K. Gopalan]

same time I regret that a few Members of this House did not want that this resolution should be moved today, the result of which would have been that it would not have been debated at all if again it is not balloted and does not come in the ballot. I only want to inform those hon. Members of the anxiety of the people outside when they heard that this House was going to have a discussion on the question of unemployment. These are the number of letters, memoranda and telegrams that I have got and I am sure other hon. Members also would have got.

Some Hon. Member: How many are they?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: If you want to know how many, please come here and see. I only want to say that the question of unemployment today is a very important one and I am sure that there will be no controversies about it because even the ruling party had been discussing this question for the last so many days. At the Agra session also they said that the Government was reviewing the question of unemployment, how to solve it and what relief could be given immediately so that they could relieve the distress in the country. So, I am sure that nobody in this House would be against this resolution because this resolution only says that some relief must be given to the unemployed in this country.

As far as the situation in the country today is concerned, since the last month many papers have written editorials on the question of unemployment prevalent in the country. Two days back a paper from Bombay has written an editorial on unemployment and it shows the gravity of the situation in Bombay. (*An Hon. Member:* Which paper is it?) *The Free Press Journal*. I shall read only four or five lines from it to show the unemployment crisis as far as Bombay is concerned:

"The unemployment crisis is a national problem, which seems to

be particularly acute in Bombay State.

While plans and programmes are suggested and debated, the unemployment crisis is steadily worsening. And we have yet to make a start on some tangible action to cope with the situation.

As India's foremost centre of commerce and industry, Bombay has always been regarded as a city of opportunities. But, now-a-days, it is fast becoming a city of frustrations.

With the cost of industrial production rising steeply, and with rationalisation and the resultant retrenchment plans in the offing. Bombay's industrial workers are faced with growing unemployment and underemployment. Signs of unrest prevailing among the workers were evident in the demonstrations organised here on August 15th."

Then it goes on:

"The unemployment crisis, which we confront today, did not descend on us all too suddenly. Warnings of it were evident for a long time but we did not heed them and, even after the threat has become acute, we do not seem to have grasped the urgency of the situation.

Today, the crisis is acute but it has yet to reach its peak. Nevertheless, from a purely social and economic problem, the unemployment situation has been raised to the level of a major political problem.

It is high time that the Administration began tackling it with a sense of urgency that will rouse the people from despair and frustration and stimulate public confidence in the National Government."

I do not want to read from the editorials in other papers because there

is no time for me to do so. I only want to bring to the notice of the House that everyday when we read the papers we hear of persons committing suicide, we hear of persons who have died of starvation and so on. Not only is there famine in the country but there is malnutrition and disease especially among young children. From those who under the instruction of the Central Government went to Malabar the report is that the children die because of malnutrition. I can give a picture of the position in my State and I am sure it will be the same in other States also.

So far as Kerala is concerned, the main industries are handloom, textile, coir and tiles. As far as these are concerned, except the British-owned textile factories—one or two factories—all the other industries are in a ruined condition and there is not even ten per cent. employment in all these industries. As far as the fishermen on the West Coast are concerned, except for four months during the monsoon they have no employment. Thousands of people who have this as their main job are unemployed. Not only that. In Calicut there is a very good timber industry, which holds the second place in the world. Not only those who do business here, but also those who fell the trees, the cartmen, those in the saw mills, are unemployed. As a result of the retrenchment and closure of factories tea shop keepers and those who work in the hotels and cinemas are also affected.

1 P.M.

First of all, I wish to bring to the notice of the House the figures that are given by the Employment Exchanges. According to the estimate in the Five Year Plan, the figure on the Live registers at the Employment Exchanges had more than doubled between December 1947 and October 1952: from 1,75,604 it went up to 3,64,679. This has been showing a steady and steep rise. Regarding rural unemployment, the Plan said that some authorities put the figure at 30 per cent. But, they went on to admit that in

addition to this there is chronic unemployment. This is stated on page 652 of the Five Year Plan. The Plan also ended by promising that in the course of five years 1951-52 to 1955-56, they will provide jobs for an additional 52,54,000 persons by means of these projects and these schemes, in the rural areas and industrial plants. Coming back to the Employment Exchange, the figures on the live registers have gone up from 3,64,679 in October 1952 to 4,73,917 in June 1953, out of which more than 2,000 were those who were in employment and wanted better jobs. This shows an increase of 1,09,238 within the course of eight months. If we take the already expired Plan period, we find that the figures have recorded an increase from 2,88,971 in December 1951 to 4,73,917 which leaves a net rise in registered unemployment by 1,84,946. This means that during the 2½ years working of the Plan, we have been presented with a gift of an addition of more than 50 per cent. on our live registers of unemployed people seeking jobs and without finding them.

In addition to this, the number of registered unemployed who were provided with jobs, has been steadily shrinking. The total number of vacancies to be filled has also been falling. While in December 1951, the vacancies notified were 38,879, by June 1953, this number had fallen to 25,658. Similarly, while in December 1951 the number of persons placed in employment was 33,425, in June 1953, the number fell to 16,045, that is below 50 per cent. Thus, while the number of unemployed on live registers rose by more than 50 per cent., there was a fall by more than 50 per cent. in the number of persons provided with jobs during the last two Plan Years.

Then, I come to the question of unemployment of the educated. The figures that are given here are these. The number of persons applying for clerical jobs increased from 85,057 in December 1951 to 1,28,548 in May 1953, the last month for which figures are available. The number of teachers

[Shri A. K. Gopalan]

unemployed on live registers shot up from 4,825 in December 1951 to 10,388. Not only that. In answer to a question, it was said by the hon. Labour Minister that the number of unemployed graduates in engineering was 832 and the number of graduates in medicine was 150. I also wish to bring to the notice of the House the gravity of the situation of the educated unemployed. The papers say that there are graduate peons in Rajasthan and that an army of unemployed youth is found in Awar. According to reports received here, 5000 applications including those from graduates and post-graduates were received for the posts of 45 teachers in the new primary schools to be opened under the Five Year Plan. A graduate applied for the post of a peon in the District National Savings Office and a graduate has already been appointed as a peon in the Mandaleswaram Tehsil.

I do not want to go into the details. As far as educated unemployed people are concerned, the number is increasing. As far as rural unemployment is concerned, it is very difficult to have an exact idea because there is no provision for them to go and register themselves. The Government also said that the figures are inadequate and there are many unemployed persons who have not registered themselves. I have got here a chart prepared from the answers to questions asked on the floor of this House as well as in the other House, and also from economic journal, which I place on the Table. This chart also is not complete. Here I have given 17 provinces and also categories of employment like Government and local bodies, collieries, other mines and quarries, cement, textile, engineering, bidi, tiles, iron and steel, jute, handloom and cottage industries. I have also given here figures about coir, shipping and other industries and teachers. These figures also are not complete because as we all know till now no statistics have been collected.

In addition to these, there are also other categories that do not come

under these heads, that is, retrenchment resulting through rationalisation and through sealing of looms in the jute industry. Civil Defence employees also do not come under these categories.

From the figures in the Employment Exchanges we understand that the situation today is very grave. In addition to this, prices of consumer goods are mounting up, and the cost of living is very high. If at least the consumer goods are cheap, people will be able to support their dependants to some extent even though they are unemployed. But, due to the increase in prices those who are employed are unable to help their dependants who are unemployed. The wholesale price index for food articles on 18th July, 1953 was 406.6 as against 357 in January, 1953.

The cost of living in December 1952 was 446 at Kanpur, 327 at Madras and 137 at Delhi. In June 1953, it was 453, 360 and 140 respectively, according to the *Eastern Economist* dated August 7, 1953.

Another unfortunate thing is that during the last one month all over India there have been floods—in Malabar, in Travancore-Cochin, in Andhra, Bihar, U.P. and other places, and we hear that whole crops have been destroyed. Thus, those who live on the land will have nothing to live on, and for another three or four months they will not have any harvest because they have no seed. They will not be able to pay rent to their landlords or taxes to the Government. So, nobody can say what the situation will be after six months.

There have been so many amendments, and people have asked: "What is the cause of this unemployment?" Whatever may be the cause of unemployment, certainly some immediate relief has to be given, and unless some immediate relief is given, we will not be able to save the people who will be taken away by starvation deaths. As far as the causes of unemployment are

concerned, I believe that the most important thing is that the purchasing power of the people is very low and there is a shrinking home market. Unless we can have a home market where the people are able to buy things, we will not be able to provide employment in this country. Secondly, there are accumulations of stocks. We have seen that this accumulation has made the factory-owners close their factories. The next basic cause is the domination of the British capitalists in our country's industry, finance and trade. This domination has stretched to heavy industries like heavy chemicals, iron and steel, automobiles and others, and the development of the national industries has been ruined by this domination. We are not getting capital goods by which we can develop our industries, especially heavy industries. Our trade policy is another cause. We understand from reports of Chambers of Commerce that the Government is purchasing crores worth of articles from U. K. and the U.S.A. though those articles can be had here, or if they are not available here, they can be produced here with some help from the Government.

Also in the name of reorganisation of educational, medical and health services, many teachers, doctors and others have been thrown out of employment. Even near Delhi, as far as the products manufactured in the Faridabad and Nilokheri refugee camps are concerned, I have come to understand that the Government have stopped further loans, and moreover they are demanding the money back. The stocks have got accumulated, and as far as Faridabad shoes are concerned, they are unable to find market.

It is the duty of the Government to find a market for the things that are produced, for only then will the refugees be able to return the money loaned to them by the Government.

Next I come to the eleven point programme of the Planning Commission, which they have put forward for solving the unemployment problem. In that programme, the emphasis is

laid on cottage industries. If one goes through that programme, one will think that it is because there are no handloom and other cottage industries, that the people are suffering today. For nearly two hundred years British imperialism tried to crush the cottage industries in the country. They wanted that the handloom, the silk and other cottage industries should be completely destroyed. But they were not able to do it. But today, nearly six years after Independence, after the advent of our national Government, I may be excused to say, the silk industry, the handloom industry and other cottage industries have been completely destroyed, which even the British imperialists could not do. (An Hon. Member: Question.) Whatever the reasons may be, that is the position today. Again it is said that we must have new people, and we must train people, in order to organize and run well the handloom and other cottage industries. But this diverts our attention from the main point. There is a certain community in Malabar which consists of persons engaged in a certain industry, called the pit-looms. There are not only the handloom weavers, but also the pit-loom weavers. If they are unemployed today, it is not because they do not have the necessary training, but because they have no market for their products. This most important point is forgotten in the eleven point programme, which recommends the organisation and creation of cottage industries. We must see that the handloom and other cottage industries are restored first; before that, we must see to it that we have adequate markets for their products. For this, it is necessary that the purchasing power of the people should go up, and they must be in a position to buy these things.

Therefore, as far as the purchasing power of the people is concerned, 80 per cent. of the people of this country are those who either work on land or live on land. As far as those peasants, those tillers of the soil, are concerned, what is their position today?

An. Hon. Member: It is time, Sir.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): Sir, before you adjourn...

Mr. Chairman: Ordinarily, the hon. Mover of the resolution has 30 minutes. Of course, it is perfectly open to me to extend that time; that is a different matter. Now he has taken about 22 or 23 minutes. I would like to know how long he is likely to take.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: I would like to speak for five or ten minutes more.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Chairman: I was asking the hon. Member about his assessment of the time-limit.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Ten minutes more than the time allotted.

Mr. Chairman: In all 40 minutes?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Then I think it will be better if we sit for 15 minutes more rather than...

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I make a request to the Government before you adjourn, Sir?

Mr. Chairman: I am not adjourning at all. I am going to allow 15 minutes more to the hon. Member to proceed. I wanted, more or less, to consult him and it is not a matter where others are interested.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: I would request Government that the Planning Commission's so-called plan for fighting unemployment or whatever it is, may be circulated to Members of the House.

Mr. Chairman: Let the hon. Member proceed.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Fifteen minutes more? I will continue on the next day, if hon. Members so desire.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Let us have it the next day, Sir. (*Interruption.*)

Mr. Chairman: I do not know how other Members are interested. So far as I was concerned, I was consulting the hon. the Mover. If he thought that he could finish within 15 minutes, I was prepared. If he is of opinion that he would better continue the next day, then I will consider that. But I do not understand how other hon. Members are interested. I would like to know from the hon. Member whether...

Shri A. K. Gopalan: I will proceed with it on the next day, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: Then I adjourn the House till two o'clock on Monday.

The House then adjourned till Two of the Clock on Monday, the 24th August, 1953.