

approach and scientific method in solving the problems of the country ?

**SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :** That is what I said in my reply. While the AIR is planning its programme this aspect is always kept in mind and the programmes are planned in such a way

**SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI :** Now the All India Radio is allocating time generously for various items like Katha Kalakshepa, discourses of puranic stories and shastras, which justify the caste system and untouchability of the Hindu Society. Will the All India Radio allocate some time to counter all this type of propaganda ?

**SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :** I do not think the puranic stories which are broadcast from the All India Radio on children's programme or any other programme go against the secular ideals of our country

**SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI :** May I know whether there is any specific proposal to propagote nationalist ideas and nationalist programmes among the youth, particularly in the Yuva Vani, which is meant for the students in schools, colleges and universities ?

**SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :** Yes, Sir. The Yuva Vani programme is mainly meant for them. In every programme of the All India Radio, including those which cater to the youth and students of the country, this is included.

**SHRI G. VISWANATHAN :** The Minister is as vague as possible in her reply. I want to know specifically whether any time has already been allocated by the All India Radio, and if not, whether they are going to allocate in the future, for the propagation of rationalist ideas ?

**SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :** The whole programme of the All India Radio is based on rationalist ideas. The programme for farmers, the family planning programmes, all these programmes are based on rationalist ideas. I think the government is not irrational.

**SHRI PROBODH CHANDRA :** In the year 1964 at the Education Ministers' Conference there was a suggestion that the All India Radio should broadcast at the beginning of the school programme the national anthem or some such other song which creates a sense of nationalism among students. Will the hon. Minister be able to tell if that proposal is receiving any consideration of the Government or has that been given up?

**SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :** At this moment I do not have the information about this particular matter.

**SHRI B S BHOURA :** In the name of religion AIR is always preaching communalism. What steps are being taken by the Government to stop such programmes ?

**SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :** This is not at all correct. In the name of religion AIR is not at all preaching communalism. I want to mention here that AIR is also not having any sort of religious programmes.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Next question, Shri Banerjee.

**SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :** May I request that question No. 79 may also be taken up along with this ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Are they identical ?

**SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :** Yes, they are identical.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I think there is a bit of difference. That is different.

#### Expert Committee on unemployment

\*69. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will the Minister of LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee appointed to suggest ways and means of removing unemployment has started functioning; and

(b) whether this Committee is likely to submit any interim report; if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes.

(b) It will be for the Committee to consider these aspects in due course.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I am happy that a committee has been appointed but a committee takes a long time specially because when it is an expert committee experts do take more time. In the meantime what are the longterm and specially short-term programmes to give some interim relief to the lakhs of underemployed persons? Is there any programme for the interim period before the submission of the report ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : The observation that it is an expert committee is not correct and is not borne out if he were to see the names. For instance, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu is one of the members. By what category will you call him an expert? I know, he has trade union experience and background.

Regarding the second part of the question, I would like to say that pending the report of the committee Government are already undertaking specific programmes to deal with this problem of unemployment. As a part of this attempt a crash scheme for rural employment, which is to be implemented from the commencement of this year, will form the nucleus of the programme for the expansion of employment. This programme will be linked to schemes for arising the productivity of the soil. These schemes are designed to improve the conditions of small but potentially viable farmers, sub-marginal farmers, agricultural labour and dry farming and Chronically drought-affected areas. The construction and renovation of minor irrigation sources and the provision of basic amenities, such as, drinking water and link-roads, are to form part of this programme. These are the programmes whereby new employment opportunities will be created. No relief, as he says, is being contemplated because these programmes have been given effect to.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Sir, my name has been mentioned.

MR. SPEAKER : It was a casual mention. That does not attract any supplementary.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : It is on wrong information that the hon. Minister said that. This shows how ignorant the Minister is.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : He is not an expert.

There was suggestion, which was virtually accepted by the hon. Prime Minister for favourable consideration, that there should be a land army to combat unemployment among the uneducated persons. I want to know what has happened to that, whether there is going to be a land army in which these people will be employed and whether this problem is going to be fought on a war footing.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : By whatever name you call these efforts and whether there is going to be an army or not, in broad outline certain schemes have been placed before this House. The Finance Minister in his speech while introducing the Budget has also given same information about the programme and same specific sums have been allocated for the purpose. I am sure, the hon. Member will try to understand the implications of it and see, even if there is no name of land army, that it will create a new enthusiasm, a new climate, in the rural areas so that the people will voluntarily come forward to implement these schemes.

MR. SPEAKER : May I request that the Ministers should also be very brief in their replies ?

SHRI TRIDIB CHOUDHURI : This Committee has been appointed to suggest ways and means of removing unemployment. Unemployment is a patent fact. But the standing scandal is that neither the planning Commission nor any other expert body except perhaps the inquiry undertaken by Prof. Dantewala has made any assessment of the actual back-log of

unemployment, under-employment and all these things. May I know whether this Committee will have to start its work without any such assessment before them or whether this Committee will undertake such assessment and, if so, whether it is included in its terms of reference?

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** In fact, it is clear from the recommendations that the Danetwala Committee tried to lay down certain criteria to determine unemployment. What we call unemployment is in a vague manner. He wanted to give a specific meaning to it and ascertain what is the total unemployment in the country, categorisation and all that. From the terms of this Committee, it is very clear that this is not the object of this Committee which has been set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bhagwati. The object is very clear. The Committee is expected to review the position. Of course, while reviewing the position and making recommendations, they will have to ascertain what is really the unemployment problem, what is the present state of affairs and how many are unemployed in the country because vaguely many estimates are given. But keeping in view the Dantewala Committees' recommendations, they will make their own assessment.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA :** This Committee, it appears, has been appointed to suggest ways and means of solving the problem of unemployment. May I know from the Government whether the Government is in a position to say what is the exact size of the problem of unemployment, how many people were unemployed in the country till the Committee was appointed and whether the Committee has been asked to suggest ways and means to find out employment for those who are unemployed, whether they are educated or uneducated.

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** As I stated earlier, to give exact figures keeping in view certain criteria that have been placed before us by the Dantewala Committee is very difficult at the present juncture. There are various estimates. Some go to the length of even 20 millions and more. But the main purpose of the Committee is in regard to those who are job-seekers, whether they are educated or uneducated, whether they are in urban or

in rural areas, and they will have to recommend some measures by which this backlog of unemployment as well as growing unemployment could be lessened.

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA :** I wanted to know whether the Government are in possession of the facts as to how many persons were unemployed at the time the Committee was appointed. That was my question.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Unfortunately, he is not in a position to tell.

**SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE :** Will the hon. Minister kindly say whether the Marxist-Communist Party in West Bengal was responsible for more people being thrown out of employment ?

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** I am sorry this question does not arise out of the present question.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He is a new Member. I am sorry. I have to pass on to the next question. If we go on like this, we can do only two or three questions a day. We cannot finish the list.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** Please allow us more supplementaries, Sir, because it was based on my resolution.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Nobody doubts it.

#### Rise in price of Sugar

\*70. **SHRI S. L. SAKSENA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the reasons for sudden rise in the price of sugar without any ostensible reason for it, particularly when the price of sugarcane has not been increased at all ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE) :** There has been no increase in the prices of levy sugar. Prices of free sale sugar had fallen in the months of January and February 1971, due to less offtake of sugar in these months but these prices have risen lightly in March 1971. A possible reason