

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 9, 1978/Phalgun 18,
1899 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Frustration among Job-Seekers

*228. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of reports of widespread frustration among the job-seekers because of their inability to secure employment through the employment exchanges in spite of waiting for years; and

(b) what is the outcome of the employment generating schemes initiated by Government during recent years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government are seized of the seriousness of the unemployment situation prevailing in the country. Despite the substantial employment opportunities created through the development plans in the past and by the special employment generating schemes initiated in recent years, the problem has continued to cause
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anxiety. Government have therefore decided that the primary objective of the next phase of development plan would be the removal of unemployment and substantial under-employment, within approximately 10 years. The Planning Commission is drawing up the next plan in which creation of employment opportunities in different sectors of the economy will be one of the primary objectives.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: My question is very specific. He should not have laid the statement on the Table of the House. I request you kindly to ask the Minister to reply to the point. My question is:—

“Whether Government are aware of reports of wide spread frustration among the job-seekers because of their inability to secure employment through the employment exchanges in spite of waiting for years”.

The statement laid on the Table of the House is a general statement. If the Minister fails to give correct information to this House, it is really a breach of privilege. He cannot give a bald answer which he has given to the question.

So, I would like to put my question. There is an explosive situation in this country, especially, for the last one year or so. The frustration has not only increased but that has also created an atmosphere of unrest in the country among the unemployed youths. They are waging a war not only in the rural part but also in the cities. From various replies that we have collected, it seems the present Government is not in a position even to create an atmosphere of any such employment potential either through planning or through some other way.

That is why I am asking why has the present Government of India failed to provide concrete proposals to meet this explosive situation. The statement that is being given is that they will eradicate the unemployment problem within ten years. Mere empty words will not bring anything. I want to know what exactly is the scheme you have for the last one year to absorb the unemployed and what exactly is the situation that you have created in various States through the Employment Exchanges to guarantee jobs. I am asking a specific question. Will you now kindly answer that?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps, I have been cautioned by the hon. Member to give a pointed reply. There is a presumption in this statement,—that there is a point in his question. I shall not cross swords with him on that. I shall try to look for the point. The question relates to Employment Exchanges, what they have been able to do, and what they can do to deal with the problem of finding employment. As far as this limited question is concerned.....

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: How much frustration has it created?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: If my hon friend does not want to feel further frustration, he should listen to the answer. Otherwise he will have double frustration. He is frustrated for the last one year.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Don't enter into a dialogue. You will please answer.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, can I be sure that he will not start a dialogue and I can answer? The position is that the Employment Exchanges are not meant to generate opportunities for employment. They are neither recruiting agencies nor are they meant for the generation of employment opportunities. They constitute referral agencies.

Sir, a similar or an almost identical question was raised and answered in this House last week on the Employment Exchanges. I then made it very clear that according to the present rules, there is nothing to compel every unemployed person to register with the Employment Exchanges. The present Employment Exchanges Act lays down that it is necessary for the public sector undertakings as well as non-agricultural establishments in the private sector employing twentyfive persons or more to notify vacancies. These vacancies are notified and registered with the Employment Exchanges and persons who want to seek jobs register themselves with the Employment Exchanges. Therefore this is a case of a referral service. And when the vacancies are notified, then the Employment Exchanges pass on the names of persons who are qualified to the appointing authorities. Therefore, the wider question of generation of employment does not relate to the administration of Employment Exchanges. But, as far as the question of the feelings of frustration is concerned, it is quite well known that mounting unemployment does cause frustration. This Government has never said that unemployment can be eradicated in one year. The entire exercise of the plan is to orient our economy towards the generation of employment opportunities.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the answer that has been given by the hon'ble Minister. The employment exchanges in the country are full of corruption, nepotism and favouritism. Only kith and kin of those employed in public undertakings or private undertakings are being employed. This is the situation which is prevailing and you are not in a position to take any action. Recently, the Planning Commission has come out with a theory that we cannot give job guarantee. Then, how will this frustration stop? Will you kindly bring a Constitution Amendment

guaranteeing right to work to meet the unemployment problem in the country?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, this is a general question. It is not for the Labour Ministry in this context to deal with a question of constitutional amendment of the kind the hon'ble Member has referred to. As far as the Government is concerned it has made it clear that its planning will be oriented towards the abolition and elimination of unemployment within ten years.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : पिछली सरकार ने तीस सालों में रोजगार की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की, उमी का परिणाम है कि आज देश में शिक्षित बेरोजगारों की संख्या बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ गई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ जैसा डम सरकार ने दस सालों में सब को रोजगार देने की बात कही है और रोजगार न दिये जाने पर उन्हें बेकारी भत्ता देने की बात कही यदि उन्हें रोजगार न दिये जा सके तो सरकार उन्हें बेकारी भत्ता कब से देना आरम्भ करेगी? आपने यह भी कहा है कि योजना आयोग इस बात का प्रयास कर रहा है कि जल्दी में जल्दी ऐसी वित्तीय व्यवस्था की जायगी जिसमें लोगों को अधिक से अधिक रोजगार दिये जा सकें। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ—वह कौनसी वित्तीय व्यवस्था है, जिसमें लोगों को अधिक रोजगार मिल सकें? इस सम्बन्ध में योजना आयोग द्वारा कब तक निर्णय लिया जायगा।

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Sir, this question relates to the Planning Commission and the Plan that is going to be placed before the Country. I do not think that it is possible for me to anticipate, but when the Draft of the Plan is published it will be seen that the entire emphasis of the Plan is on the generation of employment opportunities.

As for the second part of the question relating to giving allowance to those who are unemployed, I may

say that Government has not given any such undertaking or made any statement to this effect. The question has been raised more than once, and it has been stated by the Prime Minister that at present Government does not have any such Plan under consideration.

SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU: In view of the tense situation throughout the country arising from unemployment problems whether Government is considering payment of unemployment allowance?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered this question. He has said 'no'.

श्री राम प्रकाश त्रिपाठी : अध्यक्ष महोदय इस सदन में कई बार कहा गया है कि एम्प्लाय-मेंट एक्सचेंज के वर्किंग के बारे में कोई नया पैटर्न बनाने के लिये सरकार विचार कर रही है जिससे उसमें व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार, पक्षपात और दूमरी बुराइयाँ दूर की जा सकें। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसा पैटर्न सरकार कब तक लायेगी, जिससे कि एक सही सिद्धान्त के आधार पर लोगों को रोजगार मिल सके?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: A similar question was answered last time, or a little earlier. Last week, I did say in the House that complaints about corruption, nepotism, inefficiency, bribery Delays, etc. had been received, and to look into this entire question and find ways of streamlining the working of Employment Exchanges, a Committee has been appointed on the 1st of March.

SHRI VARUNACHALAM: The hon. Minister has stated that the Government has no programme for giving aid to the unemployed people. At the same time, whether the Government will come forward to grant any subsidy to State Governments if they come forward with such proposals?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: No such proposals have come, and, therefore, the question has not been considered. But as far as the attitude of the Government to the utilisation of funds from the Consolidated Fund of India for providing an unemployment allowance is concerned, the attitude of the Government has been made clear. But I would like to add a few more sentences. The magnitude of the problem is well-known. Crores of people are unemployed in this country, and this fact is well known to the hon. friend opposite as well as to the Government. Provision of an allowance of this kind would mean expenditure of a colossal magnitude, and whether the social utility that can be derived by spending the money on an allowance is greater than the advantage that can be derived by investing that money for generating further employment is the question that Government has to consider; and considering this question, the Prime Minister has stated that it is more advantageous to use our limited resources for the generation of employment.

श्री राम सेवक हजारी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि बेरोजगारी की समस्या एक अहम समस्या है और सरकार की तरफ से जो जवाब आ रहा है वह वैसा ही है जैसा कि पिछली सरकार देती थी। मैं माननीय मन्त्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस समस्या को हल करने के लिए क्या कोई ठोस योजना, कोई समयबद्ध कार्यक्रम सरकार ने बनाया है। इस सत्र में मदन के माननीय सदस्यों को क्या आप यह जानकारी देंगे कि कोई ठोस समयबद्ध कार्यक्रम आपने इसके लिए बनाया है और बेरोजगारी को दूर करने की दिशा में आप क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I will request the hon. Member to wait till the Plan is published.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: Sir, it has been stated in the Statement that the

Planning Commission is drawing up the next plan in which creation of employment opportunities in different sectors of economy will be one of the primary objectives. May I know from the hon. Minister what are those plans? The second part of the question, that is, (b) is: what is the outcome of the employment generating schemes initiated by Government during recent years? May I know from the hon. Minister, what is the answer for this question?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: His first question relates to the details of the plan and I have already answered that question. It is not possible for me to anticipate the plan. It is not a part of the responsibility of the Employment Exchanges to deal with the plan. Now, on the second part of the question that he has asked, I would say that if in recent years adequate success had been chalked up, we would not have been in the present situation.

श्री होरा भाई : मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मन्त्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि वर्तमान जगत् परिस्थिति है, उसमें रोजगार के दफ्तर मिर्क जिला केन्द्रों पर ही हैं जबकि मैकड़ों माल लम्बा चोड़ा एरिया कस्बों में जहाँ पर पढ़े और बिना पढ़े-लिखे काफी लोग बेरोजगार हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन लोगों के लिए रोजगार का रजिस्ट्रेशन कराने के लिए सरकार ने क्या व्यवस्था की है ?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: The number of employment exchanges that we have today might not be adequate. The question of increasing the number as well as any other means that we can adopt to facilitate registration will be considered by the Committee.... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Next question. We have taken 20 minutes over this question.