

(*Re* : S. Q. 510, and 522)

SHRI NABIAR : Sir, along with Q. No. 510, Q. No. 516 also may be answered.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. Q. No. 522 also.

JOBLESS ENGINEERS

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*510. SHRI GANESH GHOSH :

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE :

SHRI O. P. TYAGI :

SHRI P. GOPALAN :

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN :

SHRI JUGAL MONDAL :

SHRI BHOGEN德拉 JHA :

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY :

SHRI LAKHAN LAL KAPOOR :

SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered any plan to provide jobs to jobless engineers;

(b) if so, the details of the plan and when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether any initiative has been taken to convene a meeting of all the concerned authorities to explore the possibilities of creating more employment potentialities for unemployed engineers; and

(d) if so, what progress has been made in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : (a) to (d). The Central Government in consultation with the Planning Commission is devising ways and means to increase employment opportunities for engineering graduates and diploma holders. To this end, the Planning Commission is holding detailed discussions with various Ministries and organisations in charge of development projects. A detailed plan for creating greater employment opportunities is being formulated.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : Perhaps the Central Government know that governments both at the Centre and in the States execute works also through the employment of contractors. It is also known to the Government that many factories in our

country do not employ engineers for jobs which require the services of expert engineers. In view of the great unemployment position of the engineers in our country, is the Minister prepared to ask the Government for extension of construction projects departmentally and also make it compulsory for all factories to employ qualified engineers ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : These two view points were discussed by the Planning Commission. It has been suggested that (a) all contractors must appoint qualified engineers and (b) any work up to Rs. 25 lakhs must be entrusted to engineers. We have also studied the problem of employing engineers in small factories. It requires a modification in the Factories Act. We will do it, because we have accepted the principle.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH : Recently, the unemployed engineers submitted a memorandum to the Government requesting them to create a pool of unemployed engineers. Is the Government prepared to concede this demand ? Secondly, would they consider the desirability of giving some allowances to the engineers until they get some employment ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I think that the House would like to know the various ways and means that we have considered. If you will kindly permit, I can give the details.

MR. SPEAKER : He need not read the whole report. He can give a short reply to the question. If there is a full report, it may be placed on the Table of the House.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : It is not final; it is under discussion. The Planning Commission convened a meeting of all the Ministries and other organisations and suggested various measures to be adopted to meet the requirements. The intake in the technical institutions should be regulated in relation to the capacity of institutions to provide quality education. The procedures both in public and private sector undertakings should be streamlined and speeded up. The Central and State Governments should expedite the recruitment of engineers to unfilled vacancies on a priority basis. Since there is a large number of posts in the army and Military Engineering Service—several thousands, I am told—under the compulsory liability

scheme against State quota, it would be advisable that direct recruitment of engineers to defence establishments be stepped up. A pool, as suggested by the hon. Member, for the engineers retrenched from the completed projects should be created and appointments for the new projects should be made out of this pool. The practice of making thorough investigations of projects such as irrigation and power should be re-established and detailed reports and estimates drawn up for projects to be undertaken during the Fourth and Fifth Five Year Plan. Survey work, such as hydrological survey, survey of river basins etc. needed for future planned development of the country should be undertaken on a priority basis. Programmes should be undertaken for accelerating the utilisation of irrigation works already completed. There should be practical training of engineering personnel for a specific period, which will cover about 3,000 to 4,000 engineer. Qualified engineering personnel should be encouraged to take up small-scale industrial projects through grant of loans by the State Governments. A special scheme for the purpose is being drafted in consultation with the concerned organisations. The development of consultancy firms should be encouraged by making consultancy reports necessary with the applications for financial assistance from the public sector financial institutions. A proposal to step up expenditure on research and development is under consideration. These are the various ways and means that we are considering.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : The hon. Minister has enumerated the steps that he is likely to take to absorb the existing jobless engineers. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the likely number of engineering graduates from the Indian universities in the course of the next five years and the effective steps which are contemplated by the Government to avoid the unpardonable culpable dereliction of the solemn obligation of Government to save these new engineers at least from the ignominy, humiliation and misfortune of unemployment; whether any scheme is under contemplation of the Government to encourage firms of large number of co-operative societies of engineers for manufacturing purposes and to undertake contracts in which liberal finan-

cial assistance may be given by the Government in addition to other facilities, and, if such a scheme is not under contemplation, will the hon. Minister assure the House that he would formulate such a scheme?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I think, I have covered this.

MR. SPEAKER : He was a little late. He has answered it earlier.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I want to supplement the question put by my hon. friend, Shri Ganesh Ghosh. His question was very pungent and pertinent. He asked whether Government is going to start a pool and pay some sort of an allowance or unemployment dole to these engineers. May I remind the hon. Minister that in the case of those engineers who are coming from foreign countries there is a pool, called the Scientific Pool or the Pool of Engineers, and they are getting about Rs. 400 only because they come from foreign countries and this country has no place for them? I would like to know whether he is aware that almost all the boys who are completing their courses from the engineering colleges have been denied employment in all corners and the time has come when some young boys may even commit suicide because there is a race between unemployment and starvation. I would like to know whether Government will pursue this matter and see that they are paid some allowance before they actually commit suicide or take drastic steps.

SHRI UMANATH : Before the Government commits suicide.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I personally do not believe in giving doles to anyone. To enable them to earn money we have to arrange for employment opportunities, whether it is self-generating or created by other industries.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : How will they survive?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I think, Shri Banerjee should advise them not to commit suicide.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I can only advise them. I cannot give them employment.

SHRI HEM BARUA : That was a very bad answer that Shri Banerjee should advise the engineers not to commit suicide.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : He suggested doles... (Interruption.)

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider the desirability of allowing our young engineers to seek employment in other developing countries besides the things he is considering ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Surely.

श्री मुहम्मद इस्माइल : मैं बिल्कुल सीधा-सा सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसका घुमा फिराकर जवाब न दिया जाय। ये जो इंजीनियर हैं इनको जब तक काम नहीं मिलता है, जब तक प्लानिंग कमीशन इन की बेरोजगारी की समस्या पर विचार करती है या कैबिनेट कोई फैसला लेती है, तब तक इनको बचा कर रखने की जिम्मेदारी बिल्कुल आपकी है वा नहीं, इसके बारे में आप परसनली कुछ फील करते हैं या नहीं। क्या आपका यह विचार है या नहीं कि यह बहुत खराब बात है। अगर आप इसको फील करते हैं तो क्या आप गवर्नमेन्ट को रिकोमेन्ड करेंगे कि उनको कुछ फाइनेंशल मदद दी जाए ताकि वे जिन्दा रह सकें इंजीनियर का काम करने के लिए ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : He asks me whether I am personally concerned or not. I can assure the hon. Member that I am very much personally concerned because I trained myself thousands of engineers. But, as I said, I do not agree to give them doles. We are trying to find out vocations for them.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Do not call it doles; call it scholarship.

SHRI UMANATH : Before putting the question, I am going to refer to the second part of my question (No. 516) which is put to the Education Minister with regard to the arrest and release of students. I do not want the Education Minister to say that it is not within his power. Since it has been admitted, either he must reply or the Home Minister who is here should reply.

Now, I want to know how many engineering students who have taken part in

demonstrations in Delhi have been arrested and how many have been released. I would like to know whether the Government has taken any decision to release them all without any prosecution.

MR. SPEAKER : It is Q. 516. Yes, he may give the answer.

DEMONSTRATION BY ENGINEERING STUDENTS

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*516. **SHRI UMANATH :**
SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL :
SHRI B. K. MODAK :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of Engineering students from different States demonstrated before Parliament on the 12th February, 1968;

(b) if so, what are their demands;

(c) the steps taken to meet their demands;

(d) whether it is a fact that a number of students have been arrested; and

(e) if so, total number of arrests made so far ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main demand of the students is that adequate employment opportunities should be provided for technical personnel.

(c) The Government are already considering various measures to utilise the services of technical personnel.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) 224. It is understood that all have been released.

I can tell the House that the students of various engineering colleges in the country who went on strike met and decided to go back to their States. They have withdrawn the strike. I am told, all of them have been released.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM : Several people have not been released in Andhra Pradesh.