LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 26, 1970/
Agrahayana 5, 1892 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at three minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increase in Unemployment in West Bengal

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*361. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :
SHRI K. RAMANI :
SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing menace of unemployment in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to check it;

(c) whether Government are considering the proposal for giving unemployment relief; and

(d) if so, the details of such proposal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT REHABILITATION (SHRI BISHWANATH ROY) : (a) The number of work-seekers on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges shows a rising trend.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

(b) Various development programmes included in the Fourth Five Year Plan and the Annual Plans for the Centre and the State of West Bengal in the field of agriculture, industry, irrigation and power, transport and communication and social services such as education, health and family planning and social welfare are expected to create increasing number of employment opportunities in the country, including West Bengal.

In addition the following schemes have also been taken up in West Bengal which are expected to have an impact on the employment situation :-

(i) Scheme for development of small and potentially viable farmers;

(ii) schemes for marginal farmers and agricultural labour;

(iii) scheme for rural works and labour-intensive activities in chronically drought affected areas;

(iv) scheme for establishing agro-service Centres;

(v) advance of agricultural credit; and

(vi) area development programme-scheme for development of infra-structure facilities like roads, regulated market etc.

Other important steps taken by the Central Government in this regard are :-

(i) West Bengal's Fourth Plan provides for an expenditnre of Rs. 40 crores for the development of the Calcutta Metroplitan Region. The outlay is now proposed to be substantially augmented outside the Plan and an expenditure of Rs. 22 crores is to be incurred during 1970-71. The accelerated development programme in the Calcutta Metropolitan Region is expected to create many jobs as also the recent levy of entry tax;

(ii) the Public Financial Institutions have assured the West Bengal Government that they would adopt a flexible policy in regard to the availability of credit and for the development of industries as well as for housing and civic projects in West Bengal. The Industrial Development Bank of India, in particular, has opened a Regional Office in Calcutta with a view to making more significant contribution to the development needs of West Bengal and other Eastern parts of the country.

The West Bengal Government is, inter-alia, taking the following steps to remedy the situation :-

(i) Persuading employers to re-open closed units and trying to bring to an end strikes and lock-outs.

(ii) Helping industrial units in financial dicffiulties to secure financial assistance and directly giving loans to sick or closed units in order to keep them going or to help in re-opening them.

(iii) Enlisting unemployed engineers as contractors under the Public Works Department, compelling Class I Contractors to employ at least one person with a technical degree or diploma and making it obligatory for all outsiders participating in open tenders to furnish evidence of having employed at least one such person.

(iv) Preparing schemes for self-employment of engineers and diploma holders, for example, through allotment of tractors on out of turn basis.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : In the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House many schemes have been mentioned, but, unfortunately, not even one has been implemented The problem of unemployment in West Bengal is quite acute for the lack of and absence of growth. But it has become very serious on account of many persons who are already employed having been thrown out of employment due to closures and strikes. May I, therefore, know from the Government as to the number of persons who have been thrown out of employment due to closures and strikes today and how many units continue to be closed today on account of strike or political trouble ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : It is not possible for us at this moment of time to give such figures. We want notice.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : 20 days' notice was given for this question. It is a very specific question. Sir, would you not insist on the Minister to give reply ? Is it enough to say that he wants further notice for this thing ? I want your ruling, Sir ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : We have to collect figures from various districts also because the question relates to the whole of West Bengal. If it is a question relating to the city of Calcutta, probably we would have got the figures immediately. But, because the

question relates to the entire West Bengal, we have got to get the figures.

Meanwhile, I may also state that all possible steps are being taken to see that the closed mills are re-opened.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : The problem of unemployment is acute in West Bengal. A permanent solution for this will have to be found which would lie in creating an effective and permanent infra-structure. Unless you have a plan for this infra-structure like roads, like bridges, and like many other village development works, this problem will never be solved. So, I want to know what steps they propose to take and they have taken with regard to the effective creation of an infra-structure and how many persons are expected to be employed under this programme.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : We agree with the hon. Member that in West Bengal, as also in other parts of the country, the most important point is to create the infra-structure, that means, construction of roads, minor irrigation, small scale industries and other things. It will be evident from the detailed statement that I laid on the Table of the House. The Fourth Five Year Plan as it has been recast for the current year, lays considerable emphasis on this infra-structure and there will be more expenditure on the construction of roads, more expenditure on rural electrification etc. as suggested by the hon. Member. It will be evident from the statement that we are actually moving in that very direction.

It is not possible to say how much of employment will be generated but I would say that it is exactly on these lines that Government is moving in West Bengal, as also in other parts of the country.

श्री बेनी शंकर शर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मन्त्री जी जानते हैं कि बंगाल में इस समय दो तरह की बेरोजगारी है, एक तो वे लोग हैं जो जन्मने बेरोजगार हैं और दूसरे वे लोग हैं जो किसी मिल या फैक्टरी में काम करते हैं, लेकिन लोक-आउट या हड़ताल की वजह से बेरोजगार हैं। मंत्री महोदय ने अभी जो वक्तव्य रखा है उस में कहा है कि जहां तक क्लोज्ड यूनिट्स का ताल्लुक है, उन में फिर से काम चालू कराने के लिए वे कोशिश कर रहे हैं— Persuading employers to reopen closed units and trying to bring to an end strikes and lockouts.

यह बहुत ही अच्छी इच्छा है, लेकिन केवल चेष्टा करने से यह काम नहीं हो सकता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस समय कितने कारखाने लोक-आउट या हड़ताल की वजह से बन्द हैं, उन की हड़ताल खुल जाय इस के लिये आप क्या प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं ?

दूसरा प्रश्न—क्या सरकार मेरे इस सुझाव से सहमत है कि मजदूरों को जो मजदूरी मिलती है, वह इस समय की मंहगाई की वजह से पूरी नहीं होती है, इसी वजह से उन की आवश्यकतायें और मांगे बढ़ती जा रही हैं। क्या सरकार इन मजदूरों को फिक्स्ड प्राइस पर भोजन सामग्री और जितनी अन्य आवश्यक वस्तुयें हैं मुहिया करने का प्रबन्ध करेगी ?

तीसरा प्रश्न—पश्चिमी बंगाल में बड़े बड़े कारखाने या फैक्ट्रियाँ खुलने से बेरोजगारी की समस्या का समाधान नहीं हो सकता है, वहां पर छोटे छोटे गृह उद्योगों की आवश्यकता है। मेरे एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में माननीय मन्त्री जी ने कहा था कि दिल्ली में जो खादी तथा ग्रामोद्योग भवन है, उस में 83 लाख 59 हजार रुपये की बिक्री के मुकाबले 10727 लोगों को काम मिला, इस से मालूम होता है कि ऐसे छोटे उद्योगों से हम ज्यादा लोगों को काम दे सकते हैं। क्या वह खादी तथा ग्रामोद्योग भवन जैसे उद्योग, पोल्ट्री फार्मिंग, मछली उप्पादन, आदि की वहां पर लगाने की योजना बना रहे हैं, जिस से अधिक से अधिक लोगों को रोजगार मिल सके ?

श्री भगवत झा आजाद : यह बात सही है कि पश्चिमी बंगाल में कुछ मिलों या अण्डरटेकिंग्ज़ के बन्द होने के कारण भी मजदूरों में

बैरोज़गारी बढ़ रही है । इस सम्बन्ध में पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार एक स्पेशल रिलीफ़ अण्डरटेकिंग नाम का विधेयक लाना चाहती है, जिस के अन्तर्गत अन्य राज्यों में ऐसी जो बीमार मिलें हैं, सिक-मिले हैं उन को लिया गया है । दूसरा विचार यह चल रहा हैं कि एक स्टेट टैक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन की स्थापना की जाय, जिस के अन्तर्गत ऐसी मिलें जो वहां पर बन्द हैं या बंद होने के रास्ते पर हैं, उन को सुविधायें दी जांय ।

जहां तक माननीय सदस्य ने छोटे छोटे उद्योगों का हवाला दिया है, मैं ने अपने बयान में स्पष्ट रूप से और विस्तार के साथ बताया । पठौदिया जी के प्रश्न के उत्तर में भी बताया कि वस्तुत: इन्हीं रास्तों पर हम चलना चाहते हैं जहां तक कि देहातों का संबंध है और अरबन एरिया के लिए तो 40 करोड़ की योजना अलग से है जो कि कलकत्ता मेट्रो-पोलिटन और रीजन्स में खर्च करेंगे । हुगली पर सेकेंड ब्रिज बनाने की जो योजना है उसके लिए सेंक्शन हो चुकी है । जहां तक रूरल एरियाज़ में बेरोज-गारी का प्रश्न है वहां पर छोटे छोटे कुटीर उद्योगों के साथ साथ रूरल एलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन को भी लेंगे। उदाहरणार्थ हरियाणा राज्य में 69–70 के साल में रूरल एलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन के कारण वहां पर 7.5 परसेंट की इनकम में वृद्धि हुई है। यह मैं ने इसलिए बताया कि इस योजना को लेने से देहाती क्षेत्र में रोजगार बढ़ेगा ।

श्री राम सिंह अयरवाल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कल भी अनएम्पलायमेंट के ऊपर प्रश्न पूछना चाहता था लेकिन मुझे अवसर नहीं मिल पाया ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : दूसरी पार्टीज़ के लोगों को भी देखना पड़ता है ।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बैरोज़गारी का सवाल सारे देश में, जिसमें कि पश्चिम बंगाल भी शामिल है, बहुत खराब हालत में पहुंच गया है। क्या मन्त्री महोदय एक निश्चित अवधि के अन्दर इस सवाल को पूरी तरह से हल करने का आश्वासन इस सदन को देंगे वरना मैं उनसे इस प्रश्न के भाग (ग) के अन्तर्गत यह जानना चाहूंगा क्या वे इस देश के तमाम बेरोज़गारों को बेरोजगारी राहत देने का आश्वासन देंगे और यह रकम कम से कम उतनी बार होनी चाहिए जितनी कि इस देश की औसत आमदनी है और यह राहत उसको तब तक मिलती रहनी चाहिए जब तक कि उसको काम नहीं मिल जाता है ?

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : जैसा कि मैंने बताया और माननोय सदस्य स्वयं जानते हैं कि इस देश में जो बेरोजगारी का प्रश्न है उसके हल करने के लिए कोई निश्चित अवधि देना सम्भव नहीं होगा ।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : सौ साल ?

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : मैं इतना निराशावादी नहीं हूं जो यह कहूं कि सौ साल तक बेरोजगारी रहेगी क्योंकि तब तक इस देश के बेरोजगार न इनको जीने देंगे और न मुझ को जीने देंगे। इसलिए सौ साल की बात कहना बड़ा अनुचित होगा ।

जहां तक बेरोजगारी का भत्ता देने का सवाल है वह सम्भव नहीं है। हमारा उद्देश्य यह है कि देश के जो सीमित साधन हैं, जो हमारी वित्तीय सीमायें हैं उनके अन्तर्गत ऐसी योजनाओं को चला करके लाभ उठायें जोकि लेबर इंटेंसिव है। चतुर्थ पंचवर्षीय योजना में यह निर्णय किया गया है कि 5.5 प्रतिशत हमारी राष्ट्रीय आय में वृद्धि हो । यह सिर्फ लाजिकल डेवलपमेंट ही नहीं बल्कि ऐसी लेबर इंटेंसिव स्कीम्स़ चलाई जायें जिनके अन्तर्गत अधिक से अधिक लोगों को रोजगार देने में समर्थ हो सकें ।

श्री रामसिंह अयरवाल : मन्त्री महोदय ने उत्तर दिया है कि जो फैक्टरियां बन्द हैं उनको

खोल दिया जायेगा तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि कितनी फैक्टरीज बंद हैं और उनको खोलने में कितना खर्चा पड़ेगा ? दूसरे मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि कुटीर उद्योगों की ओर उनका ध्यान है, उस पर कितना पैसा खर्च करने वाले हैं ? तीसरे उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि चतुर्थ पंचवर्षीय योजना में साढ़े सात परसेन्ट बिजली देहातों की ओर जायेगी तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि कितनी बिजली आप शहरों में देने वाले है और कितनी बिजली देहातों में देने वाले है और क्या आपका लक्ष्य डीसेन्ट्रलाइजेशन की ओर है ? कम्परेटिवली कितनी कितनी बिजली शहरों और देहातों की ओर जायगी । इसका डाटा आप दे सकेंगे ?

चौथी बात बेरोजगारी को पेंशन राहत के विषय में कही गई मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि राहत कार्यों पर कितना पैसा खर्च होने वाला है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो वेस्ट बंगाल का सवाल है उसके साथ इसको भी किसी तरह से जोड़ लीजिए ।

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : यही मैं कहना चाहता था कि हमारा सम्बन्ध बिजली से नहीं है । कितनी बिजली दी जायेगी यह तो बिजली मंत्री ही बता सकते हैं । लेकिन जहां तक मूल प्रश्न का सम्बन्ध है, जैसा मैंने कहा कि राहत के अन्दर में पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार इन मिलों को लेना चाहती है और स्टेट टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन तथा अन्य वित्तीय संस्थाओं ने वेस्ट बंगाल गवर्नमेंट से कहा है कि इस सम्बन्ध में वे समुचित सहायता करेंगी ।

SHRI P. R. THAKUR : You have heard only those members who are not Bengalis. They have got big business there (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I take exception to this (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P. R. THAKUR : They look at the problem of unemployment from their business point of view. I am a Bengali and I live there. I look at this problem point of view. Is this acute problem of unemployment due to the influx of refugees from E. Bengal, and is rehabilitation the only solution of this acute problem ?

I know the real problem there. But these people have got business there..... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We want businessmen only to defeat Congress : otherwise, we have nothing to do with them.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Which Congress ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Both.

MR. SPEAKER : He should have just asked a question without going left or right and imputing motives to this or that section of the House.

SHRI D SANJIVAYYA : He has already asked the question whether the increase in unemployment is also due to the fact that there has been a great influx of refugees from E. Pakistan. That is one of the reasons.

So far as refugees are concerned, the problem is being tackled differently. They are being rehabilitated ; if they are agriculturists, they will be taken to areas where land is available and settled there ; if they are businessmen, they will be given business loans to start their business.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Samar Guha. He is a cent per cent Bengali.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I am very thankful to all the other members who though not belonging to Bengal belong to India, who have taken so much interest about the question of unemployment in Bengal. Is it a fact that in the live register of the West Bengal Government last December the number of matriculate unemployed is 1, 82,035, the number of IA and I. Sc. 82, 203 and the number of post-graduate unemployed 32,260 ?

I would like to know whether these are facts and whether this is the reason that out of cynicism and frustration developed out of this unemployment among the educated young men, the present situation has developed in West Bengal. In this background, I would like to know from the Government whether the Government will introduce unemployment allowance for the educated persons and recommend to the Finance Minister that all the taxation from luxury goods and consumer goods should be reserved for paying the unemployment allowance to these educated unemployed young men.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : The following are the figures on the live register of West Bengal on 31. 12. 1969. Graduates 42,260 ; higher secondary passed, including intermediate under-graduates 82,000, matriculates 67,572.

So far as the other part of the question is concerned, we should place more emphasis on schemes and programmes on a proper scale like the infrastructure being built in West Bengal as in other parts of the country, roads, rural electrification, having viable small farmers in the agricultural sector etc., and by this way spend our limited resources on gainful employment rather than giving relief for the unemployed. It is not possible for the Government to concede any unemployment relief at this stage.

श्री मधु लिमये : गैर बंगालियों को भी चांस दिया जाय। हम को भी पूछने का अवसर दिया जाय।

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Badrudduja.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : You have been complaining that over questions a lot of time is being taken when only two or three questions are covered during the Question Hour. It is for you to regulate, but when all the aspects of this question have been dealt with, if every Bengali and non-Bengali is to ask supplementaries, what will happen ? Let us decide that we will have only one question in one hour, I have no objection.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : यह बंगालियों और गैर बंगालियों का इस तरह से यदि भेद-भाव किया गया तो बहुत दिक्कत आयेगी। यह बड़ा मुश्किल होगा।

MR. SPEAKER : Normally, chance should be given to the people of the state whom the question concerns, but that does not mean that the others will not have a chance. Also, there are certain other questions which are regional in nature. So, I do not want to deprive them.

SHRI BADRUDDUJA : I am grateful to hon. non-Bengali friends for the deep interest they have taken in the affairs of Bengal. Sir we are faced with a difficult question. I want to ask the Government a simple question, what positive, definite steps the Government propose to take to ease this unemployment problem. You will be surprised to learn that in Bengal for the posts of peons, thousands of graduates applied ; A First class engineer applied for the post of a clerk. That is the magnitude of the unemployment problem in Bengal at the present moment. I would invite the attention of the whole House to this problem because, as was pointed out, by some hon. friends, it has generated frustration in the minds of youngsters and has led to complications. So, I would like the hon. Minister to give me positive definite assurance as to how they are going to solve this problem of unemployment which is assuming serious proportions in the State.

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : Various Steps have been indicated how to slove the problem of unemployment, but it looks as though an impression is being created that unemployment is much more in West Bengal than in the rest of the country. Our statistics show that the number of work seekers on the live registers of the employment exchange in West Bengal increased from 4.5 lakhs to 5.3 lakhs during the period December 1966 to June, 1970, a percentage of 19.5.

The corresponding increase for the whole country is 38.1.

SHRI NATH PAI : Why are you proud about it ? There seems to be a note of triumph in what you say.

SHRI D.SANJIVAYYA : No, no. Please bear me fully ; I say it in a humble way.

The impression is created that it is more in West Bengal.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पश्चिम बंगाल में यह जो बेकारी व बेरोजगारी का प्रश्न उठ खडा हुआ है उस का बुनियादी कारण यह घेराव व हड़ताल है और इनके कारण यह बेरोजगारी बढ़ी है तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि यह घेराव और हड़ताल के कारण जो वहां पर यह परिस्थिति उत्पन्न हुई है और घेराव और हड़ताल के कारण यह नक्सली मूवमेंट को जो बल मिला है तो इस बेकारी की समस्या को जोकि इतने गम्भीर रूप में उपस्थित हो गई है उस के समाधान के लिए क्या कोई निश्चित तिथि अथवा अवधि बतला सकेंगे ?

श्री भागवत झा अजाद : अध्यक्ष महोदय, लेबर के सम्बन्ध में जो स्थिति है वह पश्चिम बंगाल के सभी सदस्यों को मालूम है। आपने स्वयं भी लोकसभा में कहा है कि वह भी एक कारण है। लेकिन अभी पिछले कुछ महीनों में राष्ट्रपति शासन में वहां पर जो मिलें बाहर जा रही थीं उन का बाहर जाना बंद हो गया है और वहां पर जो बीमार मिलें हैं उन के लिए सरकार स्टेट टैक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन के बारे में विचार कर रही है। विभिन्न वित्तीय संस्थानों ने यह आश्वासन पश्चिमी बंगाल की सरकार को दिया है कि अगर वह वहां रह कर उन मिलों को पुन: चलाने का प्रयत्न करेंगे तो उन को लिबरल रूप में सहायता दी जायगी इसलिए अभी जो स्थिति पहले थी उस में इम्प्रूवमेंट हुआ है ।

श्री सीताराम केसरी : मैंने पूछा है कि किस समय तक वैसा हो सकेगा ?

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : निश्चित समय अभी नहीं बतलाया जा सकता है।

Utilisation of Saga of Azad Hind Movement as incentive to Emotional Integration of the Country

*364. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether the saga of the Azad Hind Movement has been or will be used by Government mass media as incentives to emotional integration of our country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : Yes, Sir. Media programmes on National and Emotional Integration freely draw upon the rich source of national history of which the Azad Hind Movement is an important part. The role of the movement attracts special notice on occasions like the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose or the Azad Hind Fauj Day.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The saga of Azad Hind revolution has not only created history in the last year of our national emancipation but has also led to a social revolution in the whole of South East Asia.

MR. SPEAKER : No background, please. We know that.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : It was for the first time in the history of the Indian freedom movement that Netaji achieved national integration; Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Isais were living together, dying together, were fighting together. Not only that. The Mosques, gurdawaras, temples and churches were opened to men of all religious communities. They are crying hoarse about emotional integration in the country. What concrete steps have they taken to see that glorious history of the revolution is reflected in the sphere of national integration ? I want to know exactly from them what step they have taken in this regard.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, let us assure my friend that we are equally conscious of the great, noble and glorious role which the Indian National Army played under the leadership of Netaji for the national liberation. Therefore, keeping that in mind, in the Publications Division, we have already published selected speeches of Netaji. We have also issued the book,