

The motion was carried by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two thirds of the Members present and voting.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up the Short Duration Discussion.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Growing unemployment in the country-Contd.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI) in the Chair]

श्री दारा सिंह चौहान (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कल से इस विषय पर चर्चा हो रही है। मैं आपसे कहना चाहूंगा कि इस बेरोजगारी के सवाल पर सदन तो गम्भीर है लेकिन अब तक की जितनी भी सरकारें आई हैं, उन्होंने इस मामले में गम्भीरता नहीं दिखाई है। जो सरकारें अब तक रही हैं अगर गम्भीर रही होती तो शायद बेरोजगारी का आलम जो बढ़ रहा है इस देश में ऐसा नहीं होता। जो सब से बड़ा कारण है जो सेवा योजना कार्यालयों में जितने नाम अंकित हैं, जिनका रजिस्ट्रेशन किया गया है, इससे भी ज्यादा बेरोजगार हैं। जो पढ़े लिखे हैं उनका विश्वास इन सेवा योजना कार्यालयों से उठ चुका है क्योंकि आज जितनी भी नौकरियां दी जाती हैं बिना सेवा योजना कार्यालय से नाम लिये दी जाती हैं। तमाम कारण हैं। सरकार की गलत नीतियों के कारण आज इस देश में बेरोजगारी की भयावह स्थिति पैदा हो गई है, उनकी संख्या दिनोंदिन बढ़ रही है। इस नाते मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार इस पर गम्भीरता से विचार करे।

महोदय, आज सरकार की गलत नीति के कारण पूरे देश में जो बुनकर हैं, जो हाथ से काम करने वाले हैं, उन की संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है। वह भुखमरी के कगार पर हैं। बुनकरों की बेरोजगारी का कारण सही समय पर ऋण न मिल पाना है। महोदय, आज तक इस देश में काम को सम्मान नहीं मिला है, जो छोटा काम करने वाले लोग हैं, उन को सम्मान नहीं मिला है और यही कारण है कि देश में आज भी बेरोजगारी बढ़ रही है। आज लोग अपना गांव और देहात छोड़कर शहरों की तरफ पलायन कर रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार का ध्यान छोटा काम करने वाले लोगों की ओर अवश्य जाना चाहिए। महोदय, यहां पर चर्चा सिर्फ सरकारी आंकड़ों के आधार पर होती है। हम जमीनी सच्चाई पर चर्चा नहीं करते हैं। आज देश में भूमि-सुधार का काम भी अब तक नहीं हो पाया है। आज भी देश में बड़ी संख्या में ऐसे खेतिहर हैं जिन के पास खेती के लिए जमीन नहीं है और खेती के लिए जमीन न होने के कारण जब उन के लिए खाने के लाले पड़ते हैं, उन के बच्चों की पढ़ाई की फीस वे नहीं जुटा पाते तब वह महानगरों की तरफ पलायन करते हैं। इसके अलावा आज नौकरी भी उन्हीं लोगों को मिल रही है जिन के हाथ में सारे संसाधन हैं। आज नौकरी भी उन्हीं को दी जा रही है जिन के घर में बेरोजगारी नहीं के बराबर है। साथ ही आज देश में हो रहे उदारीकरण के कारण उध्व पढ़े-लिखे लोगों को तो बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों की तरफ ललक लगी हुई है, लेकिन आज भी देश में पढ़े-लिखे लोगों का एक बड़ा भाग है जो कि आरक्षण के दायरे में ही सोचता है और वहीं पर अपने भविष्य को तलाशने में लग्न हुआ है। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आजादी के इतने वर्ष बाद भी हिंदुस्तान में आज भी तमाम उन

परिवारों के लोग हैं जिन के घर में नौकरी करने वाला नहीं है। इसलिए जिस परिवार को हम नौकरी नहीं दे पा रहे हैं, उन्हें सरकार को गारंटी देनी होगी। माननीय मंत्री महोदय मौजूद हैं और वह जमीनी सच्चाई को समझते हैं, जिस परिवार को नौकरी नहीं मिल पाई है अगर उस परिवार को हम नौकरी देने का काम करेंगे तो उन में एक विश्वास पैदा होगा। वहीं से बेरोजगारी दूर करने का प्रयास होगा। आज देश में हाईस्कूल, इंटरमीडिएट, डिप्लोमाधारी और डिग्रीधारी पढ़े-लिखे लोग बहुतायत में हैं जिन्हें नौकरी नहीं मिल पाती है उल्टे आज प्रदेशों में नौकरी के नाम पर तमाम विज्ञापन छापे जाते हैं, लेकिन पारदर्शिता न होने के कारण जिन को नौकरी मिलनी चाहिए, जो पात्र हैं उन की जगह गलत लोगों को नौकरी दी जा रही है। यही कारण है कि अभी उत्तर प्रदेश में बी.टी.सी. के द्वारा जो विशिष्ट भर्ती अभियान चलाया गया, हाईकोर्ट ने उस पर रोक लगा दी। वहां गलत तरीके से नौकरी देने की साजिश हुई। इसलिए उपसमाध्यक्ष जी मेरा आप के माध्यम से कहना है कि सरकार में बैठे मंत्री लोग जमीनी सच्चाई को जानें। भूमि-सुधार न हो पाने के कारण जिन्हें लोगों को जमीन नहीं मिल पा रही है, जो गरीब हैं, उन को नौकरी नहीं मिल पा रही है, उन के संबंध में सरकार को कुछ व्यवस्था जरूर करनी चाहिए क्योंकि जो पढ़े-लिखे बेरोजगार लोग हैं, उन को शिक्षित बनाने में राज्य सरकारों का और केन्द्र सरकार का बहुत पैसा खर्च होता है। आज हम ठेकेदारी की भी बात करते हैं कि ठेकेदारी में उन का इनवोल्वमेंट नहीं होना चाहिए, लेकिन ऐसे जो बेरोजगार डिप्लोमाधारी हैं, जिनके पास पैसा नहीं है और वे बेरोजगार हैं तो उन का जो पैसा विभागों में मार्जिन मनी के रूप में जमा किया जाता है, उस को माफ कर अगर प्राथमिकता के आधार पर उनको काम पर लगाया जाएगा तो निश्चित रूप से जो लोग तकनीकी शिक्षा में आगे आएंगे और उनकी बेरोजगारी दूर हो सकती है। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, today, poverty and unemployment are the main enemies of human beings. Even after the implementation of successive Five Year-Plans, the country has not been in a position to eliminate poverty and provide employment to the general masses. After Independence, more thrust was given to education by which the youths of the country became educated, and they tried to get employment according to their skills and education, but, successive Governments failed to provide them the desired jobs. Sir, so far, the agricultural sector has given employment to seventy per cent people of the country. But, after globalisation, the growth in the agricultural sector is also coming down. If this position continues, the agricultural sector also will not generate any income in future, and the people who are dependent on this sector, in one way or the other, will be forced to commit suicide. And, in this way, the doors of this large sector, which has given employment to a large number of people in the past, will also be shut. Regarding other aspects of the matter, I would like to say that the growing population of the country is one of the reasons because of which the various plans and programmes of the Government have failed to meet the demand for employment. And, the policies of the Government and the mindset of the

people who are working in various public sector units has created an impression in this country that public sector undertakings are no more profitable institutions, and are not viable to give employment to the people. But, in the meantime, I would like to say that if we go on disinvesting the industries and public sector undertakings, the people belonging to the lower middle class would not be able to get employment. This is a point which needs to be addressed by all of us, particularly, by the responsible Governments. I believe, Sir, that because of globalisation and competitiveness from the private sector, in the next ten years, there will be no public sector undertakings in this country. Then, Sir, what is the position of the private sector? On the basis of some information that is provided and the statistics that are given so far, we find that competitive persons are getting employment in the private sector. But what is the percentage? The percentage is very less. I feel that the programmes of the Government in the Ninth Plan or the programmes that are proposed in the Tenth Plan are not sufficient to meet the demand for employment. The youths of this country, even the technocrats, the ordinary graduates and those who pass 10+2, are not in a position to continue their studies. They are in a very dire state; there are no employment opportunities. Apart from that, the schemes envisaged by the Government to provide an amount ranging from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2 lakhs as loan from the banks to the unemployed youth are also not going to solve the problem. If the unemployed youth has no source of income, how can he give security to obtain a loan from the bank? Our education system is turning out many educated youth. It is a sort of unemployed army. Though they are educated and knowledgeable, there is no work for them. Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to envisage a proper plan for providing jobs to the unemployed youth in this country. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the problem of unemployment has reached an explosive point. I am sorry to say that the Government has not realised the seriousness of this problem. The unemployment problem cannot be solved by piecemeal steps. Now, the Government is doing the same thing. It is high time we examine our economic policy and the damage it has inflicted on our economy. Sir, for want of time, I will not quote from the official reports. All the official reports state that both our manufacturing sector as well as the service sector have shown the negative growth. The industrial growth is in the reverse gear. The agricultural growth is also at the bottom. This is the root-cause for the unemployment problem. Factories are being closed. The industrial

production is facing a cut. Because of the liberalised import policy, our agriculturists are hard hit. Now-a-days, it is not generating any employment. The livelihood of the rural poor is in danger. Poverty is increasing.

Sir, to solve the problem of unemployment, the Government has to turn its attention to the agricultural sector. More investment should be pumped into the agricultural sector. The official report says, only 33 per cent of our agricultural land has been irrigated. Even after 54 years of Independence, 67 per cent of our agricultural land remains unirrigated. Then, how can we solve the problem of unemployment? After the liberalised import policy, after the removal of Quantitative Restrictions, our agriculturists would find it very difficult to sell their produce. Now-a-days, there is no proper procurement also. This has inflicted a hard blow on our rural population. Those who have propagated *swadeshi* are now welcoming multinationals. They are now welcoming the developed capitalist countries to take over the key sectors of our economy....including the service sector. If we go on like this, how can we solve our problems? In my opinion, if we turn to an economic policy of self-reliance, we can march step by step, solving the problems faced by the country now. Sir, we are a billion plus, 105 crores, of people. It is not a curse; it is an asset. We have plenty of man-power. Even the starving cultivator, the poor peasantry, works hard without even a meal. Our people are very hard working, specially in the rural areas. They are our asset. We have ample resources, vast land, fertile land and we have plenty of water. All the resources, we have; we have the cream of scientists in the country. We have very splendid technicians. We have a pool of brains in the country. Nothing is lacking. If we turn to the path of a self-reliant economy, a planned economy, then only, we can solve these acute problems. By piecemeal steps pronounced by the Rural Development Minister, these problems could not be solved because every month, every year, unemployment is increasing. In the services sector, millions and millions of employees are thrown out; some by VRS. What is VRS? They are paid some lakhs of devalued rupees and thrown out.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Mr. Raghavan, you are in the process of winding up now. You have already taken six minutes.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, I have so many points. But as the Chair insists, I will wind up.

I was saying that the neo, liberal, economic policy is not the way for us to go forward. You have noticed that the most developed countries

are in the red now-a-days. The world capital system is facing a recession. One of the ten top-most companies in the United States of America, Enron, has collapsed. They have applied for bankruptcy. It was one of the top-most ten companies in the United States of America. What does it show? Manipulated wealth is not dependable. You are depending on manipulated wealth. They are depending on manipulated wealth. With the fall of Enron, our prestigious banks, including the SBI, the IDBI and the ICICI, are in a position of great loss because they are functioning on manipulated wealth. Please note that this is not the path for India to progress. For India to progress, we have to depend on our man-power, our vast resources; we have to accept a planned economy. With a planned economy, we can stand on our own feet. We have the infrastructure, we have the base for the expansion - thanks to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and thanks to the erstwhile Soviet Union and other friendly countries - we have the base to go forward. So, that is, the only way to solve this problem.

Sir, let me conclude with a warning. One of our great poets in Kerala, Mahakavi Kumaran Asan, had warned the rulers:

"Mattuvinn Chattangil Allengil

Mattum Atu Ningalethan."

Translated in English, it means, "Change the oppressive course; otherwise, you will be swept by the same course". So, I bring this fact to the notice of the Government that the problem of unemployment is not a minor problem. This is a very serious problem. It is at a point of explosion. In the rural area, crores of poor people are without any living means. Some go the way of suicides. But many are joining the army of unemployed to fight for livelihood. Unless you change the course of economic policy, unless you adopt the economic policy of self-reliance, the problem of unemployment will not be solved. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Shri S. Niraikulathan, Mr. Niraikulathan, you have got four minutes. I have to attend the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. If the House so desires, I request Shri Kailash Joshi to take the Chair.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, we can sit beyond five o'clock and finish it today.

4.00 p.m.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Yes. Now, Shri S. Niraikulathan.

SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN (TAMIL NADU): Sir, I would be finishing my speech within three minutes. But I request you not to ask me to hurry up.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KAILASH JOSHI) in the Chair.]

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the AIADMK party, I rise to speak on the unemployment problem prevailing in the country, particularly, in the rural areas. The Centre has been promising generation of more employment opportunities year after year. It has stated that with privatization, more job opportunities would be created. But unfortunately, even the existing job opportunities are vanishing after privatization and globalisation by way of lay-off and retrenchment. The number of jobs during 1993-99 has risen at the rate of just 0.9 per cent per annum. It is only one-third of the targeted growth rate of 2.55 per cent per annum. This is based on the GDP growth rate of 6.7 per cent per annum. This employment growth rate of 0.9 per cent is just half of the population growth rate of 2.0 per cent per annum. This extremely low growth rate of jobs has added to the huge backlog of country's unemployment. This has also increased the number of the poor in our country. The Government has been telling that the problem of unemployment will be solved by achieving higher growth rate in GDP. But, even a higher growth rate of GDP has resulted in a very low growth rate of employment. The findings of the 55th round of the survey on unemployment, released recently by the National Sample Survey Organization of the Government are disturbing. According to the Survey, 22 persons out of 1000 labour force were unemployed in 1999-2000, as against 19 persons in 1993-94. This shows that the rate of unemployment has gone up from 1.9 per cent in 1993-94 to 2.2 per cent in 1999-2000. This is the general scenario of unemployment. In rural areas, the situation is far worse. The employment growth rate in the rural areas was 0.6 per cent per annum as against 1.7 per cent in the urban areas. This reflects a near stagnation in agricultural employment. Unemployment is the mother of poverty. Unless we solve the unemployment problem, we cannot eradicate poverty and the nation cannot progress. With over 100 crore population, the Centre should make this huge population an asset of the nation. The huge labour-force should be utilised by making more jobs available. Now, the myth created by the World Bank that a higher growth rates of GDP can remove

unemployment and poverty stands demolished. Our godowns are full of foodgrains. Our foodgrains are rotting, but the people are dying of starvation in some States, particularly, in the rural areas. The Supreme Court had to intervene in the matter to save their lives. This is happening because of lack of employment opportunities.

That is why, my leader, and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, had decided to expand and promote small and cottage industries in Tamil Nadu. It was decided by my leader to restore the patronage given to the small-scale industries, by withdrawing the previous DMK-Government Order passed on 19.2.1997; that had done away with the special preference given to them in Government procurement. A 1000-acre Small Scale Industrial Estate at Thirumullaivasal and a Women's Industrial Estate are being set up to create employment opportunities in Tamil Nadu.

I want to make a specific point. Education has a definite role in unemployment. Our educational system has produced only job-seekers and not job-providers. That is why, unemployment is more in States with higher literacy like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra. But in States like Bihar and U.P., unemployment is relatively low. So, the Government should review the educational system so that more and more job-seekers are not produced. More of vocational and self-employment-oriented education is necessary for the country.

The Ninth Plan target of generating 5.4 crore jobs could not be achieved. It is the unorganised sector which accounts for 90% of the total labour-force; 70 per cent of them are illiterates or educated below the primary level. A majority of them belong to the SC/ST and most backward communities.

That is why, the AIADMK Government in Tamil Nadu has allocated Rs.25 crores in the current Budget for strengthening the educational infrastructure for the SC/ST students. The Tamil Nadu Adi Dravida Development Corporation has been restructured by our AIADMK Government, to provide adequate loans to the SC/ST people for setting up their own small scale or cottage industries and creating resources for self-employment.

Though the Tamil Nadu Government is taking all steps to tackle the unemployment problem and to eradicate poverty, its resources are limited.

There are very backward districts in Tamil Nadu for which special schemes are launched by the State Government. My own Ramanathapuram District, is the most backward district in my State. Thirunelveli, Tuticorin, Sivaganga and Dharmapuri are the other backward districts. But, unfortunately, the Centre has not included my district in the list of backward districts. The Centre has a list of about 100 districts known to be backward. But there is not a single district from Tamil Nadu in the list. In the last session, during the Question Hour, I asked the hon. Rural Development Minister, whether he would include, districts like Ramanathapuram, Tuticorin, Thirunelveli, Sivaganga, Dharmapuri of Tamil Nadu in the All-India list of backward districts. But the hon. Rural Development Minister did not answer that. Now, I request the hon. Rural Development Minister to see that the list includes these districts also. That will bring some benefits to them.

Rural India is full of poverty and misery because even things like *papadam*, *vadam*, *agarbatti* and knitting are taken over by the MNCs and the big business houses. This situation must change. If the problem of unemployment is not solved very soon, I am afraid, we may have to pay a heavy price by way of social tensions anti-social activities, communal and caste violence, and so on. I hope the Government would change its mind and go in for only employment-oriented schemes and projects. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KAILASH JOSHI): Mr. Shankar Roy Chowdhury. You have got four minutes.

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, unemployment is a curse which affects the well-being of the nation, and, since it affects the well-being of the people, it must be visualised in the overall context of the stability of the nation. When we talk of internal stability and security, we tend to think in terms of food security, energy security and other things. I think the problem of unemployment gives a new dimension to the whole question of security, because socio-economic security is a vital factor in ensuring stability of the country. Now, we have got the unemployment problem. It is a statement of fact. In the initial stage, the Government, the hon. Prime Minister, made a statement that they would provide one million jobs every year. Where will these jobs be provided? The obvious places are agriculture, agro-industries, small industries and the services sector. But our country is disadvantaged in

employment generation because of quite a few factors. Firstly, there is the population problem. There are less jobs and more people. The population is increasing and the prospect of providing jobs is very, very distant. Secondly, there is, more or less, general instability, law and order problem, in many parts of the country. It drives away the investment; it drives away people who seek to establish industries and provide jobs to the people. Thirdly, our financial regulatory mechanisms are very weak. Therefore, people who wish to invest, set up industry and create jobs are hesitant because, when they hear the scams in Government institutions like the UTI, banks, etc., they get the feeling that the conditions within the country, perhaps, the system of governance in the country, is not stable enough to ensure them a safe return on the funds that they invest.

Then comes the question of modern technology. We want modern technology. But, unfortunately, modern technology does not create jobs. That is the basic dichotomy that the country is facing. Instability, weak financial governance and jobless growth, as the hon. Prime Minister has mentioned the other day, are facts of life. These are internal factors. In addition to that, as the hon. Commerce Minister had said the other day, we have to survive externally, in the era of WTO, in the era of internationalisation, in the era of international competition. Added to that, the Government has itself adopted a policy of liberalisation. As a result of a combination of all these factors, the indigenous sources available to create jobs for the people in our country are just not there. I am not holding any brief for any economic or political ideology. It is immaterial whether the economic policy that we follow has originated in America or in Russia. Ultimately, what is the end result? The end result must be the well-being of our people. We are not Americans; we are not Russians; we are not Japanese; we are not Chinese. We are Indians. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to seriously consider an Indian model of growth. It cannot be full liberalisation. There are many ideologies which cannot be applied to India.

I don't think the Government is devoting sufficient attention to it and is sufficiently serious about developing an alternate Indian model of development. There is a word which is used sometimes. It has many historic connotations. But of late, people feel uncomfortable while pronouncing it. People hesitate to use this word. It is a word called 'Swadeshi', self-reliance. It is mentioned in very hushed and muted tones.

No political party has adopted it as its mainstream political agenda. I do feel, Sir, that we need to have an Indian model where agriculture and agro-industry is given predominance based on many Indian factors. The basic issue for agricultural development is land reforms. The Agriculture Policy published by the Government, which we have read, makes no mention of land reforms. It is a matter of interest that land reforms have ensured that the State of West Bengal to which I belong -- whatever other criticisms people may have of it -- is amongst the leading food producing States in the country today. The Chief Minister of West Bengal said recently, "Information technology and other sunrise industries have their place. But for a State which is leading in food production, the basic thrust line shall be agro industries". This is the philosophy which I do not hear being pronounced in other States. The Government must devote sufficient attention to ensure that a line of economic philosophy is developed which suits our conditions, our people and our environment. Land reforms have the adverse effect under our Indian system of leading to smaller and smaller fragmentation of land holdings. Here too, we must have an Indian model. The old collective farm model of the Communist ideology proved to be a failure. In America, they are having large farms which are now called cooperate farms. As a result, many of the small landholders are being driven out of the business. In any case, we cannot compare ourselves with America where only four to five per cent of the people are engaged in farming. There is plenty of Indian technology. It is available in our IITs. It is available in our CSIR laboratories. It is available in Government laboratories. We are hesitant to invest in our own research and for that the biggest culprits are the private sector houses, the corporate sector, the Indian corporate sector. We must invest in indigenous research and development and apply it to our own conditions. A small landholder cannot develop his fields, firstly because it is too small and secondly, he has no access to finances. Large banks hesitate to give agricultural loans to the small farm holders. It is a fact of life. Can't we develop a cooperative banking system in our country for the rural areas? This is part of the Indian model and we must develop an Indian model of our own development. Unless and until we take pride in our own resources, in our own model of development, unless we stop blindly borrowing economic ideology and corporate philosophy from other countries -- they are not applicable to us -- we will not succeed in our aim of generating employment for our people. Today it was brought out in the course of some other discussion that economic development is the only solution which can prevent and control

the spreading instability of the country, whether it is in the North-East or in Kashmir or in Uttar Pradesh or in Bihar and then spreading to Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and even West Bengal.

This is a huge problem, and I don't think, we are seized of it. While the Government may, and will, take other actions to control the spread of instability, the basic causes of instability, which are economic and socio-economic, have to be addressed on the basis of an Indian model and, for that, Sir, I would urge upon the Government to devote more time, more energy, more resources and more thought to develop an Indian model of development, which is not dependent on borrowed philosophies, either from the free market or from the totally centralised markets of the erstwhile communist countries. Thank you.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Maharashtra): Sir, at the outset, the major thrust of my speech will be towards rural unemployment and the consequent rural poverty. Secondly, while throwing light on the very subject, I would like to touch upon the schemes which are being undertaken by the Government of India to deal with rural unemployment and rural poverty. Thirdly, I would like to know what the present status of the schemes which are under implementation is and what their future is going to be.

Sir, rural unemployment in the unorganised sector relates to the fate of an estimated 315 million people, nearly one-quarter of our total population. The people in the unorganised sector are living without the basic amenities, like food, clothes, drinking water, medicines and shelter. The percentage of population is to the tune of 75 per cent so far as males are concerned, and 86 per cent so far as females are concerned. Now, the Government of India is implementing special programmes for eradication of poverty and for generating gainful employment. These are: the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana, the Employment Assurance Scheme and so on. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any review of these schemes has taken place or whether any evaluation report is available with the Department. If that is there, then, what is the result of these schemes as per this report? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana and the Employment Insurance Scheme have provided gainful employment to the rural population and have created productive work and whether the *Samridhi* of the village has been achieved through the Jawahar Gram

Samridhi Yojana. There is also the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana. I would like to know whether all these Yojanas have provided gainful employment to the poor people of the country. I would also like to draw the attention of the Minister to the Million Wells Scheme and the Indira Awas Yojana. I would like to know whether these schemes are being implemented in true spirit by the Government. My observation in this respect is that no *awas* is given to the poor persons nor any well is being given to the small landholders and poor farmers. Wells allotted on paper are physically missing. 'Awas' units built up under the Indira Awas Yojana are in dilapidated condition, and those houses do not last for more than one year. All the social assistance programmes comprising the National Old Age Pension Scheme, the National Family Benefits Scheme, the National Maternity Benefit Scheme, the Scheme for Development of Woman and Child in Rural India, Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment Scheme, are only on paper and these will remain on paper for ever. What about the Watershed Development Programme, the Desert Development Programme, the Integrated Watershed Development Programme, the programme for Supply of Tools and Kits to Rural Artisans, the scheme for Information, Education and Communication? These are also paper schemes and would remain on paper only. Most of these schemes relate to people living below the poverty line. May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister? All these schemes are meant for poorer sections. That is the basic thing. These schemes relate to people living below the poverty line. But my observation is that the published list of people living below the poverty line consists of people who are actually living above the poverty line and who are financially better off; people living below the poverty line are missing from this list. I, therefore, feel that the fulfilment of this pious objective, from the point of view of its implementation, has been a total failure. There is rampant corruption. Crores of rupees have been spent from the public exchequer. They have all gone waste and that defeats the very purpose of all these schemes. Sir, I would suggest that the Government of India should form a Parliamentary Committee to study in detail the working of all these schemes that are being implemented by the Government of India. Crores of rupees are being spent. We would like to know whether any purpose is being served or not. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one fact. When I was the Presiding Officer in the Maharashtra legislature, I made a little bit of contribution to the formulation of the Employment Guarantee Scheme, which is still in existence. For the information of the House, the hon. Minister and you, Sir, the Maharashtra Legislature passed

this Employment Guarantee Act unanimously in 1978. It is under implementation since 1978. This scheme was formulated in the spirit of the Directive Principles of the Constitution contained in Articles 41, 42 and 43. This scheme provides full guarantee to the agricultural labour during any failure of the agricultural season. It provides employment to agricultural labour and creates productive work such as village roads connecting one village to the other, rural roads, percolation tanks and other such works which are beneficial for the development of villages as well as the agriculture. The principle being, the scheme is the property of the poor and should be shared by the poor. The Legislature had unanimously accepted proportional taxation under the scheme, with equal matching grant by the State. The scheme relates to guarantee of work to the agricultural labour during the lean season. It was not merely an assurance. I want to suggest to the hon. Minister that this scheme that is being implemented in Maharashtra should be made applicable to the whole of India.

To sum up, I will make my last point regarding the land reforms. Mr. Chowdhury dealt with this very elaborately. Sir, ultimately the rural population, which is about 75 to 80 per cent, depends on agriculture. The land reforms should mean that land becomes productive. Then, what about the ceiling on land? We would like to know whether the surplus land is being distributed in various States to the needy and the poor or not. Secondly, it has to be seen whether the land is actually in possession of the poorer sections of the people in whose name the land is in the records. Thirdly, in many States of Northern India, they have not the *mutandis* ready; they don't know the *satbaras*; the statement of the crop; neither the limitation of the boundary of agriculture. Fourthly, in many of the States, fallow, cultivable, land is lying vacant. This land should be given to the poorer sections of the people who are landless. In this way, they will also possess land and cultivate it. That land will become productive and those people will be able to earn their livelihood and there will be no unemployment. So, these are my few suggestions which relate to the schemes which are being undertaken by the Government of India. Thank you very much.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, समय देने के लिए बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद। माननीय सदन में आज यह बेरोजगारी का इतना गंभीर विषय चल रहा है, लेकिन माननीय सदन का हाल यह है कि पूरा विपक्ष नदारद है और जो दूसरे दल हैं, उनके बड़े बड़े नेता यहां पर नहीं हैं। सिर्फ उतने ही सदस्य यहां हैं, जो बोलने वाले हैं। इससे ज्यादा दुर्भाग्य की बात कोई नहीं हो सकती कि इस विषय को इतनी गंभीरता से यह लोग ले रहे हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपनी बात एक छोटे से सच्चे किस्से से शुरू करता हूँ। अभी पिछले दिनों एक-एक सिपाही कई सांसदों की सुरक्षा के लिए दिया गया। मेरे पास भी उत्तर प्रदेश से दो सिपाही अल्टरनेटिव ड्यूटी पर आते हैं। एक दिन मैंने एक से पूछ लिया कि तुम कितना पढ़े हो? उसने बताया कि वह डबल एम.ए. है और पीएच.डी. कर रहा है। तो ऐसा पढ़ा लिखा व्यक्ति गार्ड की नौकरी करता है। इसका मतलब यह है कि बेरोजगारी एक समस्या है और जो जिसके योग्य है उसे वह स्थिति न मिल पाना दूसरी एक बड़ी विकराल समस्या है। आज देश जिस परिस्थिति से जूझ रहा है, मुझे लगता है कि उसका पूरा-पूरा अहसास न हम राजनैतिक दलों को है और न शासन में बैठे हर जिम्मेदार व्यक्ति को है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, डाऊन साइजिंग गवर्नमेंट की बात होती है कि सरकार का आकार कम होना चाहिए। यह एक अच्छी बात है, लेकिन इसके साथ-साथ आप देखें कि जो सरकारी नौकरियाँ हैं वह कम हैं। इस बात को समझा जा सकता है क्योंकि पे-कमीशन की रिपोर्ट के बाद हमारे ऊपर जो भार बढ़ा है, जो रोटी चार लोगों में बंटनी चाहिए थी वह चार लोगों की रोटी एक व्यक्ति को मिली। चलिए, ठीक है, एक फैसला जो गुजराल सरकार का हो गया, उसके बाद उसका दुष्परिणाम सारी सरकारें, राज्य सरकारें भुगत रही हैं। इसके बाद जो डाऊन साइजिंग गवर्नमेंट का है, उससे हमारे युवकों को तो नुकसान हो ही रहा है, लेकिन जहाँ जहाँ प्राइवेट सेक्टर में जोब्स क्रिएट होने चाहिए वहाँ इंडस्ट्री बिल्कुल ठप्प होती चली जा रही है, ट्रेड ठप्प होते चले जा रहे हैं। लेबर फोर्स के जो आंकड़ें हैं, उन के अनुसार सिर्फ 16 प्रतिशत लोग इंडस्ट्रीज और कंस्ट्रक्शन के क्षेत्र में हैं। जब तक हम इस प्रतिशत को नहीं बढ़ाएंगे, इस समस्या का निदान नहीं कर सकते। आज उद्योग और व्यापार की स्थिति यह है कि पूरे नार्थ इंडिया में ज्यादातर उद्योग बंद हैं। इससे बेरोजगारी की समस्या ज्यादा जबरदस्त हो गई है और अगर इसी तरह उद्योग धंधे बंद होते रहे तो उसके कारण कुछ भी हो सकते हैं। सरकार को एन्स्योर करना चाहिए कि प्राइवेट सेक्टर का डवलपमेंट इस तरह से हो कि ज्यादा उद्योग धंधे आए ताकि लोगों को ज्यादा से ज्यादा नौकरियाँ मिल सकें, जो बहुत आवश्यक है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जहाँ तक लेबर फोर्स का है, 62 प्रतिशत कृषि क्षेत्र में लगी हुई है। अभी चौधरी साहब बात कर रहे थे कि लैंड रिफॉर्म होना चाहिए, गवर्नर साहब ने भी कहा और हमारे कृषि मंत्री जी का कहना है कि 80 परसेंट होल्डिंग जो है वह लेस देन दो हैक्टेयर हो गई है। एक आदमी के पास 2 हैक्टेयर से कम जमीन है और अगर जनसंख्या में इसी गति से वृद्धि होती रही तो अगली पीढ़ी आते-आते वह एक हैक्टेयर रह जाएगी। फिर लैंड रिफॉर्म आप क्या करेंगे? यह मामला सीधे-सीधे जनसंख्या नियंत्रण से भी जुड़ा हुआ है।

श्री जीवन राय (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : बंगाल में घूमकर देखिए कि वहाँ कैसे लैंड रिफॉर्म करा रहे हैं?

श्री राजीव शुक्ला : महोदय, जो रूरल डेवलपमेंट की हमारी स्कीम्स हैं, वे बहुत इफेक्टिव हो सकती हैं। मुझे इसी विभाग से जुड़े हुए एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि पिछले 54 सालों में ग्रामीण विकास योजनाओं में जितना पैसा गया है, अगर वह सचमुच गांवों में लग गया होता तो वे सोने के गांव बन गए होते। इसलिए रूरल डेवलपमेंट की जो स्कीम्स हैं, उनकी मॉनीटरिंग बहुत जरूरी है।

महोदय, जवाहर रोजगार योजना जब चालू की गई थी तो शुरू में उसका बहुत असर पड़ा था और गांवों में काम देखने को मिला था और लाखों लोग इससे जुड़े थे। धीरे-धीरे इस योजना में भी वैस्टेज इंट्रस्ट शामिल हो गए और इस योजना का भी बेड़ा गर्क हो गया। लेकिन अभी भी ग्रामीण रोजगार की जितनी योजनाएं हैं, अगर वे ढंग से गांवों में पहुंचें तो बहुत कुछ हो सकता है। श्री वेंकैया नायडु जी आजकल इस विभाग को देख रहे हैं। कुछ डंडा इन्होंने लगाया है, अब क्या रिजल्ट आता है यह देखना पड़ेगा लेकिन यह जरूर है कि ग्रामीण रोजगार योजनाओं को अगर सफलतापूर्वक चलाया जाए और कृषि से जुड़े हुए जो उद्योग हैं, अगर उनको प्राथमिकता दी जाए तो हमारे यहां जो 62 प्रतिशत कृषि पर आधारित लेबर फोर्स है उसको रोजगार मिलेगा और शहरों की तरफ पलायन रुकेगा।

महोदय, हमारे यहां जो 10 प्रतिशत सर्विस सेक्टर में और 16 प्रतिशत इंडस्ट्री और कंस्ट्रक्शन में लेबर फोर्स है, इस अनुपात को हमें बढ़ाना पड़ेगा। हमारी लेबर फोर्स 2.5 प्रतिशत की दर से बढ़ रही है जब कि हम सिर्फ 2.3 प्रतिशत के हिसाब से रोजगार क्रियेट कर पा रहे हैं। हमारी 60 प्रतिशत वर्क फोर्स सैल्फ-इम्प्लॉयेड है। ऐसा नहीं है कि हमने उसे कुछ रोजगार मुहैया कराया है, वह स्वयं किसी न किसी घंटे में लगी हुई है। उसमें भी कितने लोग लगे हुए हैं, इसके कोई सही आंकड़े नहीं हैं। आगे अनुमान है कि 53 मिलियन की वर्क फोर्स और क्रियेट हो जाएगी जिसको आपको काम देना पड़ेगा।

महोदय, मोटे तौर पर यह अनुमान है कि जब तक 7 प्रतिशत का ग्रोथ रेट नहीं होगा, तब तक हम इन लोगों को एकाॅमोडेट नहीं कर सकते हैं। यदि 8 परसेंट का ग्रोथ रेट हो, तब जाकर हमारे यहां कुछ कम्पर्टेबल सिचुएशन हो सकती है। लेकिन 7 प्रतिशत का ग्रोथ रेट कम से कम होना चाहिए जो हमें बहुत मुश्किल नज़र आ रहा है। इसलिए एक तरफ जहां आपको ग्रोथ रेट बढ़ाना पड़ेगा, वहीं दूसरी तरफ जो सुझाव मैंने दिए हैं कि हमें उद्योग और व्यापार को बढ़ावा देना पड़ेगा और रूरल डेवलपमेंट की स्कीम्स बढ़ानी पड़ेंगी, अगर ये सब कदम सरकार उठाए तो निश्चित रूप से इस दिशा में कुछ उपलब्धियां हासिल की जा सकती हैं। धन्यवाद।

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala): Sir, I have been waiting for my turn in the debate since yesterday. I am called as the last speaker and not the least. I am thankful to you.

The attendance in the House reflects the interest we have towards solving unemployment. This problem is explosive today in our country. Day by day, the unemployment problem is growing, and there are no checks or preventive measures. There is no programme or policy which can check this growing problem. It is spreading like cancer. As cancer grows without any checks, just like that, the unemployment problem is growing. Both the Houses of Parliament have discussed this matter so many times; yet, in

effect, there is no respite. Discussions are held, without any results. In my opinion, there is no use of such discussions.

The problem is growing ever since the early 50's, when we started planned economic development. But the last 5 decades of Planned Economic development has resulted in the rich becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer.

That is the economic situation of the country after 50 years of our Independence. During the last one decade a new phenomenon has come into existence. As a part of this phenomenon, the economic growth is disregarding employment. The economic growth is not related to the creation of job opportunities for the people of this country. This is the policy which has been pursued during the last one decade. As a result of this, the National Sample Survey in 1993-94 in its 50th round of analysis and its latest report for the year 1999-2000 very specifically says that there is an uncontrolled growth of unemployment during the last one decade. What is the reason for this? I would like to submit that the main reason for the uncontrolled growth of unemployment is the new liberalised economic policy which does not have a human face and which is not concerned about the people of this country. It is totally a capital and investment oriented policy. If a multinational company or, say, a rich person of a corporate house, invests one thousand crore of rupees, whatever may be the field, it is not towards generating employment. This investment does not generate any employment opportunities. They do not address the cause of the people whether it is environmental or social aspect. The economic policy of the Government is only for the capital oriented market. The Government is very aggressively pursuing the policy. The previous Governments also pursued this policy. As a result of this, there is growth of unemployment in the educated youth. There is growth of unemployment even among the technically qualified youth. As per the records of the Employment Exchanges, 4.32 crore people are unemployed. This is an alarming situation. Now-a-days if a person gets employment even for one day in a week, he is categorised as 'employed'. This is the determining factor in respect of giving employment. If a person gets employment once in a week, he is classified or categorised as 'employed'. Sir, I would like to submit that there is a ban on recruitment since 1984. This ban is still on. No recruitment is taking place in the public sector enterprises or other such organisations owned by the Government. Therefore, the chances of getting

employment are totally lost. Whatever little jobs have been created, either they are casual or contractual in nature. This is altogether against the concept of Government employment. The NDA Government has declared the downsizing of the Central administration. Sir, 20 per cent of the work force of the Central Government may go in ten years. That means every year there will be a reduction of two per cent. Sir, downsizing the administration, disinvesting the public sector enterprises, opening up the economy for private ventures, etc.' will not solve the problem of unemployment. How are you going to solve the problem of unemployment with such an economic policy? What about the agricultural sector? This is the sector where a lot of job potential can be created. Even in the agricultural sector, there is a decline in the employment opportunities. The 50th and the 55th Reports of the National Sample Survey are very specific on this issue. There is a decline in the employment opportunities in the agricultural sector which was once a source of mass employment. In this sector also, we are losing employment opportunities.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) in the Chair]

Whatever growth that has been professed by the leaders of this Government is a jobless growth. This is the policy which is being pursued in our country. In the banking sector and other financial institutions job opportunities are being lost. More than two lakh employees have opted for the VRS. That means two lakh job opportunities have been lost. In the telecom sector, in the insurance sector and in almost every sector, the VRS or CSS or disinvestment or other such schemes are resulting in the growth of unemployment. Sir, I would like to submit that after the Second World War many economists suggested that the State should take the responsibility of providing employment to the people in order to maintain a social balance and effecting the advancement of the economy.

That has been adopted after the Second World War. So, I would like to suggest to the present Government that it should take the responsibility of providing jobs in all sectors...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Please conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I will be concluding with one more point. I would like to suggest one more point. It is, the right to work should be there as a fundamental right. Now, the Constitution (Ninety-third Amendment) Bill, 2001, is going to be discussed in this august House either tomorrow or the day-after-tomorrow or in the coming days. There is a specific provision -- amendment of 51A -- in this Bill which deals with Fundamental Duties. It says that it is the bounden duty of the parents or guardians to send their children to school. If it is the duty of the parents or guardians, my question is, whether there is any guarantee for jobs? We are imposing a duty on the parents or guardians that they should send their children to school, that they should not send their children to work. If you are imposing a duty on the parents or guardians that they should send their children to school, the State should also ensure job opportunities to the new generation or the growing population.

With these words, I once again say that the present unemployment cannot be discussed in isolation of economic policy. The problem of unemployment, the problem of poverty, has to be discussed alongwith the economic policies being pursued by this Government. The present economic policies, which are being pursued by this Government, are totally against the interests of the people, especially the unemployed people of this country. Therefore, the Government has to come forward with a clear policy or proposal so as to meet the situation or address the problems.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

श्री सतीश प्रधान (महाराष्ट्र) : धन्यवाद उपसमाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपका आभारी हूँ कि आपने मुझे यहाँ बोलने का मौका दिया। मैं सरकार का शुक्रगुजार हूँ कि सरकार ने और पंत साहब ने बेरोजगारों के लिए बहुत सारी योजनाएँ तैयार कीं और उनको अमल में लाने की भी पूरी कोशिश की। महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मैं दो-तीन बातें आदरणीय मंत्री जी के सामने लाना चाहूँगा। मैं महाराष्ट्र के ठाणे जिला से आता हूँ और ठाणे में आज बहुत विषम परिस्थिति है। महोदय, ठाणे हिन्दुस्तान में ही नहीं, विदेशों में भी एक अच्छा इंडस्ट्रियल टाउन माना जाता है लेकिन आज परिस्थिति यह है कि वहाँ की एक-तिहाई से ज्यादा इंडस्ट्रीज़ बंद हो चुकी हैं। एक-तिहाई के करीब इंडस्ट्रीज़ ऐसे कगार पर हैं कि वह कभी भी बंद हो सकती हैं और एक लाख लोगों से अधिक लोग बेरोजगार हो गये हैं। महोदय, उसके बहुत सारे कारण हैं, मैं सभी कारणों में नहीं जाना चाहूँगा लेकिन यह अवश्य बताना चाहूँगा कि उनके लिए कॉमन लेवल प्लेइंग फील्ड नहीं है। उनके लिए कॉमन लेवल प्लेइंग फील्ड की आवश्यकता है। उदाहरण के लिए मैं बताना चाहूँगा कि केन्द्रीय सरकार का सेल्स टैक्स है और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का भी सेल्स टैक्स है। महोदय, पूरे हिन्दुस्तान से मुम्बई में माल बेचने के लिए आता है और उसके ऊपर सिर्फ चार परसेंट सेंट

सेल्स टैक्स लागू होता है। लेकिन महाराष्ट्र में अगर कहीं भी माल बनेगा और इंडस्ट्री जब उस माल को मुम्बई में बेचने के लिए लेकर आएगी तो महाराष्ट्र सरकार का 15 परसेंट सेल्स टैक्स और चार परसेंट सेंटर सेल्स टैक्स उस पर लागू होगा यानी कुल 19 परसेंट सेल्स टैक्स उसको देना पड़ता है। अगर 19 परसेंट सेल्स टैक्स उनको देना पड़ेगा तो महाराष्ट्र की कोई भी इंडस्ट्री अपना माल इतने फर्क से इतने कम्पिटिशन में नहीं बेच सकती। महोदय, आज की तारीख में इतना अधिक कम्पिटिशन है और हमने डब्ल्यू.टी.ओ. के जरिए दुनिया के सब लोगों को यहां बुलाया है। हम भी बाहर जाएंगे लेकिन दुनिया के सब लोग जब यहां आएंगे तो उनके साथ हमारी इंडस्ट्री जब कम्पिटिशन के लिए खड़ी होगी। उनके लिए वहां काफी आपत्ति आएगी क्योंकि उनके लिए वहां जो प्ले फील्ड है, वह प्ले फील्ड हमारे इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट के लिए नहीं रहेगा। इसीलिए पहले हमारे यहां इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट के लिए एक कॉमन फील्ड हो। हम बाद में बाहर के बारे में सोचेंगे। हमारे लिए आपस में जो कम्पिटिशन है, स्पर्द्धा है, अभी इस विषय में सोचने की जरूरत है। हमारे यहां अलग-अलग स्टेट्स में अलग-अलग बिजली की दर है इसलिए इस विषय में भी दर कॉमन करने के बारे में सोचने की आवश्यकता है। हमने मिनिमम वेज एक्ट बना रखा है फिर भी कहीं पर 15 रुपए देते हैं और कहीं पर डेढ़ सौ रुपए देने पड़ते हैं। मैं ये सब अलग-अलग कारण आपके सामने रख रहा हूं क्योंकि इनकी वजह से दाम में फर्क पड़ता है और मैन्युफैक्चरिंग कास्ट बढ़ रही है। इसलिए विषय में गंभीरता से सोचकर अलग से विचार करने की आवश्यकता है। इसके साथ-साथ मैं मंत्री जी को यह भी बताना चाहूंगा कि हमने जगह-जगह, हर स्टेट में एम्प्लाइमेंट एक्सचेंज खोल रखे हैं और रिक्रूटमेंट के लिए दूसरी व्यवस्था की हुई है। कहीं डायरेक्ट रिक्रूटमेंट बोर्ड है, रेलवे रिक्रूटमेंट बोर्ड है और इसी प्रकार पब्लिक सेक्टर अंडरटेकिंग्स में अलग-अलग रिक्रूटमेंट बोर्ड बना रखे हैं। एम्प्लाइमेंट एक्सचेंज में जाकर लोग अपना नामांकन फार्म भरते हैं और नाम रजिस्टर्ड करवाते हैं। सरकार इस विषय पर जरा गौर से सोचे और कोई रास्ता निकाले। इस प्रकार से सब जगह आपस में कोई तालमेल नहीं है, एक दूसरे का कोई सहयोग नहीं है। इधर एम्प्लाइमेंट एक्सचेंज में लिस्ट वैसी की वैसी रहती है। हमारे यहां एम्प्लाइमेंट की स्थिति गंभीर है, इस पर भी सोचना पड़ेगा। आज एम्प्लाइमेंट एक्सचेंज में काम करने वाले लोगों के लिए भी बैठने की जगह नहीं है। इसलिए मेरा यह कहना है कि एम्प्लाइमेंट एक्सचेंज का कम्प्यूटराइजेशन ठीक ढंग से करना पड़ेगा। यदि एक दूसरे को कम्प्यूटर के साथ जोड़कर काम करें तो ज्यादा इफेक्टिव होगा और इसका नतीजा भी अच्छा निकलेगा। मैं यह भी बताना चाहूंगा कि यह बात सच है कि जैसे एयर इंडिया में हुआ, जितनी आवश्यकता थी उससे कई गुना ज्यादा रिक्रूटमेंट हो गया। ऐसी परिस्थिति बन्द होनी चाहिए। यह जितना सच है उतना ही सच यह भी है कि पूरा का पूरा रिक्रूटमेंट बन्द करने का नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि पूरे देश में जगह-जगह काफी तादाद में बेरोजगारी बढ़ रही है, प्राइवेट सेक्टर में जगह नहीं है। आज वे पूरी दुनिया से कम्पिटिशन करने के लिए, नए आदमी भर्ती करने को तैयार नहीं हैं। आज हमारे पास जगह नहीं है और हम रिक्रूटमेंट करने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं। हम जीरो बेस्ड बजट बनाकर दो-दो जगह रिक्रूटमेंट का आदेश निकालते हैं। इतना ही नहीं मैं यह भी बताना चाहूंगा कि महाराष्ट्र की परिस्थिति और गंभीर हो गई है। महाराष्ट्र सरकार के पास आज लोगों को पगार देने के लिए पैसा नहीं है। इतनी बुरी हालत हो गई है कि वह आर्थिक दृष्टि से विकलांग हो गई है। जो परिस्थिति निर्मित हुई है, इसके लिए कुछ रास्ता निकालने के लिए सोचना पड़ेगा। जो नीलोत्पल बसु जी ने पूछा था उसका जवाब देते समय आपने जो बेरोजगार लोगों के बारे में फीगर्स दिए हैं, मैं ये सब नहीं बताऊंगा लेकिन दो-तीन जरूर सदन के सामने रखना चाहूंगा। आपने बताया था

कि बिहार में दो प्रतिशत, 357.3 ग्रेजुएट बेरोजगार हो गए, महाराष्ट्र में 345.68, तमिलनाडु में 492.5, उत्तर प्रदेश में 383.23 और वैस्ट बंगाल में सबसे ज्यादा 638.57 प्रतिशत सुशिक्षित बेरोजगार हो गए हैं। आज स्कूल और कॉलेजों से पढ़कर युवक बाहर आ रहे हैं। पढ़कर बाहर निकलने के बाद यदि उसे कोई रास्ता नहीं बताएगा तो वह हाथ जिस हाथ में काम नहीं है, जिस दिमाग के पास काम नहीं है वह क्या करेगा? उसे जो रास्ता मिलेगा या ईजी मनी जिस वंग से आ सकती है उस रास्ते पर वह चला जाता है। देश में ऐसे प्रलोभन देने वाले बहुत लोग हैं वे इन लोगों को यह रास्ता दिखाते हैं। दूसरे आदमी को गलत रास्ते पर लेकर जा रहे हैं जिसका नतीजा देश को मुग़तना पड़ा है। इससे आतंकवाद फैलाने में भी ज्यादा मदद मिलती है। इस बात को सामने रखते हुए मैं आदरणीय मंत्री जी से विनती करूंगा कि आप इस विषय पर गौर से सोचिए। इससे एक दूसरा रास्ता निकालने की आवश्यकता है। यह रास्ता निकालने के लिए हम आगे बढ़ें। एक-दूसरे से हाथ मिलाकर आगे बढ़ें और दूसरा रास्ता निकालें। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आपने समय दिया इसके लिए मैं आपका आभारी हूँ और इतना कहते हुए समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

मिर्जा अब्दुल रहीम (जम्मू और कश्मीर) : जनाबेआली, अनएम्प्लोएमेंट पर डिस्कशन हो रहा है। मैं देश के बारे में ज्यादा बात नहीं करूंगा सिर्फ इतना कहूंगा कि जिस बेकाबू तूफान की तरह देश में आबादी बढ़ रही है उसी लिहाज से अनएम्प्लोएमेंट भी ग़ो हो रही है। इसमें डिस्इन्वेस्टमेंट की वजह से बेकारी ज्यादा हो या डब्ल्यू.टी.ओ. की दखलअमली से बेकारी ज्यादा हो, एग्रीकल्चर सेक्टर हो या इंडस्ट्रियल सेक्टर हो कहीं भी इत्मीनान नहीं है। हर साल आठ से लेकर दस लाख तक बेकार लोग अपना नाम रजिस्टर कराते हैं लेकिन हजारों में भी उन्हें सर्विस नहीं मिलती है। यह जो बेकारों का तूफान जमा हो रहा है वह एक इन्क्लाब का पेशकीमा हो सकता है। मुझे उम्मीद है कि हमारी गवर्नमेंट इससे आगाह है और वह इससे कम्बैट करने के लिए, मुकाबला करने के लिए कोई रास्ता निकालेगी। मुझे अपनी रियासत जम्मू-कश्मीर के बारे में कुछ कहना है। जम्मू-कश्मीर की रियासत जब हमारे देश के साथ आज़ाद हुई उस वक्त इसकी आबादी तीस लाख थी लेकिन आज यह बढ़कर एक करोड़ दस लाख हो चुकी है। उसी लिहाज से बेकारी भी बढ़ रही है। जम्मू-कश्मीर में घरती पहले ही बहुत कम है और अब आबादी के बढ़ने से घरती सिकुड़ रही है। वसायल घट रहे हैं, मसायल बढ़ रहे हैं। इसी लिहाज से वहां पर पिछले पंद्रह सालों में जो टेरेरिज्म फैला हुआ है, जो प्रॉक्सी वार पाकिस्तान लड़ रहा है, जिसकी वजह से वहां जितने पुल जलाए गए, जितनी इमारतें जलाई गईं और जितने भी तामीरो तरक्की के काम थे पानशाला मंसूबों के जरिए वे तहस-नहस किए गए। इस वक्त आज वहां न कोई कॉटेज इंडस्ट्री है, न हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री चल रही है, न ही कोई विलेज इंडस्ट्री है। गर्ज यह कि हर लिहाज से वहां तामीरो तरक्की या कारोबार का सिलसिला खत्म है। टेरेरिज्म के इस माहौल में, जिसमें वहां तालीम भी मफ़लूज हो चुकी है और नीमतालीमयाफ़ता लोग ज्यादा खतरनाक हैं। ज्यादा खतरनाक इसलिए हो सकते हैं कि तालीमयाफ़ता तो नीम हैं लेकिन पेट उनके भी हैं। उसके साथ-साथ हमारे जो पढ़े-लिखे लोग हैं, जिनके हाथ में डिग्रियां हैं, जो डॉक्टर हैं, इंजीनियर्स हैं, टेक्नोक्रेट्स हैं, एम.ए., बी.ए. हैं, पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट हैं वे सब के सब बेकार पड़े हुए हैं। डिग्रियां उन्हें रोजगार नहीं दे रही हैं। उनके मुकाबले में जो दूसरे लोग हैं उनके लिए पाकिस्तान ने अपनी डॉलर की बोरियों के मुंह खोले हुए हैं। बहुत-से बेकार किस्म के लोगों को पाकिस्तान डॉलर देता है और जो पढ़े-लिखे लोग वहां पर मौजूद हैं वे देखते हैं कि बेकार लोग तो गाड़ियों में घूमते हैं, कारों में दौड़ते हैं, अपने हाथ में क्लाशनकोव लेकर लीडरी करते हैं, रीब

दिखाते हैं, ऐश भी करते हैं जबकि उसके मुकाबले में जो पी.एच.डी. या जो दूसरे बेकार लोग हैं उनके लिए कोई रास्ता नहीं है तो मजबूरन मरता क्या न करता उन्हें भी उस तरफ जाना पड़ता है। इसलिए ऐसे माहौल में जबकि वहां पर बिल्कुल मायूसी है, बेहिस्ती है, दहशत है, अफरा-तफरी है, आपा-धापी है, छीना-झपटी है तो मारा-मारी और कत्लोमर्त के इस माहौल में एक कत्लर ऐसा बन चुका है कि वहां कुछ लोग जिंदगी से ज्यादा मौत को तरजीह देते हैं। हम आपसे यह गुजारिश करना चाहेंगे कि इस हालत में जब तक जम्मू-कश्मीर में स्पेशल रिक्लूटमेंट का कोई रास्ता नहीं निकाला जाएगा तब तक वहां पर कम से कम मिलिटेंसी कम नहीं होगी और न वहां पर टैरोरिज्म का खात्मा होगा। इसमें कोई शक नहीं कि वहां पर 10-15 साल से टैरोरिज्म है और केवल आर्मी ही टैरोरिज्म के साथ नहीं लड़ सकती। आर्मी ने जब जब जंग लड़ा है तो ऐसे हर जंग में हमारी आर्मी ने फतह हासिल की है। इस वक्त भी आर्मी जो है वह मिलिटेंसी को मौत की नींद सुला रही है। लेकिन इसके बावजूद कांफिडेंस बिल्डिंग की बात नहीं होती। वहां पर जो पोलिटिकल वायदे किए गए थे वे भी पूरे नहीं हुए। जो नफिसियाती तौर पर तनाव और खिचाव मुक्त में है वह भी उसको अट्रैक्ट नहीं करता है। इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर को रीबिल्ड करने के लिए जो विशेष एकानामिक पैकेज जम्मू और कश्मीर के लिए होना चाहिए था वह भी नहीं है। इसलिए मैं दो-चार तजबीज आपके सामने रखूंगा। अगर जम्मू-कश्मीर में मिलिटेंसी को कम करना है, टैरोरिज्म को कम करना है, तो बेकारों को रोजगार देना पड़ेगा। वहां पर 25 हजार मेगावाट बिजली पैदा करने की संलायत है लेकिन पिछले 50-55 सालों में वहां पर केवल एक हजार मेगावाट बिजली पैदा की गई। मैं यह कहूंगा कि वहां पर पावर जनरेशन की तरफ ध्यान दिया जाए ताकि बेरोजगारी कम हो सके और वहां पर नौजवानों को रोजगार मिल सके।

दूसरा वहां पर एक रेलवे रिक्लूटमेंट बोर्ड है जिसके चेयरमैन पता नहीं कहा के हैं। पिछले पांच साल से जम्मू और कश्मीर का एक शख्स भी रेलवे रिक्लूटमेंट बोर्ड के मार्फत भर्ती नहीं हुआ है जब कि पूरे भारत में हजारों बच्चे रेलवे में भर्ती हुए हैं। इसलिए हम तजबीज रखेंगे कि वहां पर कोई लोकल मैन चेयरमैन बनाकर रिक्लूटमेंट का स्पेशल ड्राइव वहां चलाया जाए और वहां के लोगों को रेलवे में भर्ती किया जाए ताकि बेकारी खत्म हो।

तीसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ, हमारे डिफेंस मिनिस्टर वहां पर तशरीफ रखे थे, उनके सामने मैं दो-चार बातें करना चाहता था, लेकिन वे चले गए हैं, इसलिए दूसरे मिनिस्टर साहब इसको नोट करें। जम्मू कश्मीर में अगर मिलिटेंसी का मुकाबला करना है और बेकार लोगों का इस्तेमाल करना है, उनका फायदा उठाना है तो सबसे पहले वहां पर जो गुजर बकरवाल लोग हैं, उनकी रेजीमेंट खड़ी की जाए, वहां पर जो पहाड़ी लोग हैं उनकी रेजीमेंट खड़ी की जाए, कश्मीर में मिलेशिया बनाई जाए जैसे 1947 में होरे कश्मीर ने मिलेशिया बनाई थी और जो बाहरी लोग यहां आए थे उनका उन्होंने मुकाबला किया था। इसी तरह जम्मू में डोगरा रेजीमेंट खड़ी की जाए। ये जो लोकल रेजीमेंट खड़ी होंगी, इनसे यह होगा कि जब उनको रोजगार मिलेगा तो वह अपनी औलाद के लिए, अपने बच्चों के लिए, अपनी जायदाद के लिए, अपने बतन के लिए, अच्छे ढंग से एफेक्टिविटी उनका मुकाबला करेंगे और इससे वे टैरोरिज्म को भी खत्म करेंगे और उनको इससे रोजगार भी मिलेगा। लेकिन इस तरफ किसी का ध्यान नहीं है। एनजीओज इस समय सारे देश में हैं। हमारे मंत्री जी यहां पर तशरीफ रखते हैं, वे जानते हैं कि वहां पर एनजीओज भी काम नहीं कर रहे हैं, इसलिए नहीं कि सेंटर वहां पर सरमाया नहीं लगाना चाहता। वहां पर 6 महीने का मौसम होता है और सेंट्रली स्पांसर्ड स्कीम वहां पर नहीं चल रही है। हमारे स्लल

5.00 p.m.

डेवलपमेंट के मंत्री यहां पर तशरीफ रखते हैं, नान-रिलेक्सेबल फंड स्कीम के लिए हमने इनसे गुजारिश की है कि वहां पर युटिलाइजेशन सर्टिफिकेट विदइन 6 मंथ नहीं मिल सकते हैं, यह इसलिए कि वहां पर जो सीजन है, वह 6 महीने का है, लिमिटेड है, इसलिए यह स्कीम जो है वह नार्थ-ईस्ट स्टेट्स की तरह वहां भी लागू की जाए ताकि वहां युटिलाइजेशन सर्टिफिकेट इन-टाइम मिल सकें और सेंट्रली स्पॉसर्ड स्कीम से वहां के बेरोजगारों को रोजगार मिल सके।

साथ ही इस समय बार्डर के पास, तालिबान जो इस वक्त अफगानिस्तान से भागे हैं वे अब पाकिस्तान में दाखिल हो रहे हैं और आईएसआई उनको जम्मू-कश्मीर में, हमारे मुल्क में धकेल रही है। इसका मुकाबला करने के लिए भी लोकल लोगों को बीएसएफ में, और स्काउट में भर्ती किया जाए ताकि वे उनका मुकाबला कर सकें और उनको रोजगार भी मिले, उनकी बेरोजगारी भी दूर हो ओर वे अपने वतन की हिफाजत भी करें। तो मैं सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को यह स्ट्रेस करना चाहूंगा कि वहां पर एज ए स्पेशल केस स्पेशल ड्राइव रिक्लुटमेंट की हो, वहां लोकल रिक्लुटमेंट हो। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आप करोड़ों रुपया हर रोज वहां पर क्रास बार्डर टैरोरिज्म को फेस करने के लिए खर्च कर रहे हैं, लेकिन अगर इसका एक दसवां हिस्सा भी आप इस प्रकार से खर्च करें, जैसा मैंने कहा तो उससे टैरोरिज्म भी खत्म हो सकता है और बेरोजगारी भी खत्म हो सकती है। मैं इतना कहते हुए उम्मीद करता हूं कि सरकार जम्मू कश्मीर में टैरोरिज्म को कम करने और वहां पर बेकारी को खत्म करने की ओर विशेष ध्यान देगी।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुरेश पचौरी) : अब मैं सदन की राय लेना चाहूंगा। सदन की राय हो तो इस महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर चर्चा माननीय मंत्रियों के उत्तर सुनने के बाद हम लोग समाप्त करें। क्या सदन इस बात से सहमत है?

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : जी हां।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Before the Minister replies, please give me two minutes. एक मिनट आपका भाषण तो होगा।

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री (श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु) : आप तो बोल चुके हैं।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI JIBON ROY: The issue which is before us calls for a policy response. The unemployment problem is very serious. It calls for a policy response. It is in no way either related to the Labour Ministry or to the Rural Ministry. Therefore, we expected that the Finance Minister would come and give some response and give some direction. Now, he is not coming. We

do not know how he is going to solve this problem of unemployment. It is very unfortunate that the Government has not given any importance to the issue. As such I do not think the speech by the Rural Development Minister or by the Labour Minister will give anything. Since my colleagues have already left, I am also leaving the House.

(At this stage the hon. Member left the Chamber.)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Vice-Chairman, this is always the problem with these people. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Okay. Please reply to the debate leaving that controversy apart.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The point is we should devote our entire time to discuss the issues and also come to certain conclusions by giving meaningful suggestions so that the Ministries concerned can work and move further in that direction in the present situation and do whatever is possible. Each one of us wants to criticise each other and then condemn each other. In this way, we are not going to achieve anything. It is my firm belief. Moreover इसमें आइडियोलोजीज़ और वाइडर इश्युज़ ला कर के इसका समाधान अभी नहीं मिलेगा। Our country has taken a route, our country has taken a broad line and we are moving in that direction. If any corrective steps are needed, the Government is always responsive to the suggestions from the well-meaning quarters and would take constructive steps in that direction.

We are all aware that earlier the Government has set up a task force. I am not going deep into that because my colleague, Shri Sharad Yadav would be responding to the suggestions made by the Members. We have decided to examine the present possibility of employment opportunities, existing employment opportunities and also the unemployment situation. A task force has been set up and they have given certain recommendations. Now their recommendations are being studied by a sub-committee.

Sir, the task force has suggested broad areas of policy for employment generation. One, increasing the rate of growth of the GDP with emphasis on employment generation. Two, sectoral policies which are, particularly, important for employment generation. Three, laying the focus on

special programmes for creating additional employment, particularly, specialised groups. Four, pursuing suitable policies for education and skill development. Five, better legal environment for increased labour absorption in those sectors. We are all aware, the employment generation sector is agriculture and agriculture-related activities. Second is the food processing, and then small scale industry and services. Now-a-days, the service sector is providing employment opportunities to some extent. The service sectors are having a high employment potential, including travel, tourism, information technology, housing and real estate, construction, road, transport and also distributive trade, education and health services. Sir, we have to focus our attention on these sectors. In the coming days there will be a scope for employment opportunities. In addition to these, self-employment programmes for providing wage employment and also self-employment are there. These are the two areas where we are focussing our attention. Major employment programmes are there in the Rural Development Ministry. You are all aware that earlier we implemented the IRDP. Subsequently, we moved on to a holistic programme called as the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, the Self-Employment Programme by merging many of these activities.

Recently, we have come out with another new programme to take care of the food security for the rural people, to provide employment opportunities, and also to create infrastructure in the rural areas for the village requirement.

Keeping these things in mind, the Government has come out with a new scheme called Sampoorna Gram Rozgar Yojana wherein we have provided around Rs.10,000 crores per annum, Rs.5000 crores worth of foodgrains and Rs.5000 crores in cash. We have merged the Employment Assurance Scheme with the Jawahar Gram Samruddi Yojana. This major scheme will take care of the village community needs as well as opportunities. Sir, I would like to share with the House that today after the experience of the last 53 years, we have to be clear on one thing-- education, possession of a degree, does not mean an automatic entry to employment. That situation no longer exists today. Education is for education, it is for human development; and then, it is also to search for other avenues where a person can stand on his own.

Secondly, to what extent providing employment through Government is possible? All political parties should, very seriously, ponder

over this issue. Today, when we talk of downsizing or rightsizing, we talk in the sense of putting lesser burden on the people, focussing attention on development; taking money from here, from the administrative expenditure, for development-oriented investment. That is the idea. We have ideological differences with our friends from the Left. It is an ideological battle. They are not able to reconcile to the reality. Today, I would like to impress upon the House. The issue is, after 53 years, you have to provide basic facilities to the people who are unorganised, disorganised, who have been deprived all these years. So, keeping that in mind, my Ministry has been given a mandate, a two-fold mandate; one is poverty alleviation programmes, and the second is the removal of backwardness by creating infrastructure in the rural areas. When you talk of removal of poverty or poverty alleviation, it is not a question of welfare activities or giving them subsidised rice, subsidised food or subsidised loans, etc. You have to give them self-employment. Keeping that in mind, we have a variety of programmes in the rural sector. We have housing, massive housing, 25 lakh houses per year. We have a programme of sanitation. That also is going on. Now, 200 districts have been identified in the country. We are spending a good amount of money on that sector also. On housing, we are spending around Rs.2000 crores in the rural sector. The other day, the hon. Prime Minister announced another new scheme for housing in the urban areas where Rs.1000 crores is given as subsidy and Rs.1000 crores is given as loan by the HUDCO. That also is going to take care of the urban houseless people in slum areas. It will also provide some sort of employment, temporary employment. Unfortunately, in this country, employment means, everybody feels, a white-collared employment, a Government job. That is the concept, that is the perception in this country. This has to be removed from the minds of the people. Otherwise, we will be doing a disservice...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: What about agricultural employment?

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal) : Excuse me. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would like to say this. Just a minute. Hon. Members meant gainful employment. It does not necessarily mean only white-collared jobs. You should not be under the illusion that Members have discussed only white-collared employment.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I have never mentioned any Member. I am only sharing my perception.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: You have to respond to the queries of Members.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I have not mentioned any Member. If you have got a wrong impression, I am ready to remove it from your mind. I am talking of the general perception among the people.

I also come from a village. I have come from a student background. We also talked about the unemployment problem. Also, we had so many ideas. Today, after coming to the reality, what is the situation? This is what we are trying to focus. My point is that in these rural areas, if you create infrastructure, if you provide them opportunities, people can sustain their activities. Sir, you were also kind enough to mention that we have abandoned many of our traditional, professional, activities. That is another problem now. Unfortunately, in this country, these traditional artisan skills are looked down upon. They are not given the needed respect and recognition. That is one of the reasons for people switching over from those professions and then searching for white-collared employment, which is not available to them. This is one aspect. The weaver, the fisherman, the goldsmith, the blacksmith, the carpenter, the other artisans in the rural areas, used to live on those professions. I am not going into the details. But those professions are being slowly abandoned by the people. In a village, the washerman comes and collects the clothes from everybody's house, whereas, in urban areas, people take their clothes, go and put them in a laundry. See the difference. See the psychology of the people. The younger generation, the son of a washerman, the son of a barber, the son of a fisherman, the son of a potter, the sons of other people, are not willing to do this for two reasons; one, those professions are looked down upon and secondly, there is no adequate recognition and respect for those trades and professions. So, it is the endeavour of the Government today to provide them the necessary skill upgradation for those professions, and also provide them the needed credit facilities so that they can sustain their activities, and thirdly, also provide them better marketing opportunities outside their villages. This is the direction in which we are moving.

Coming back to the other issue of the figures about employment opportunities that were mentioned in the House, inspite of the recession, the employment opportunities in the small-scale sector are increasing. They are not declining. If anybody wants to have figures, I can furnish the same to

him. The figure suggests that even today, the small-scale sector is providing 193.07 lakh days of employment. Earlier the figure was 185.64 lakh days of employment. There is an increase of four per cent. I wish that we could provide more employment. But, at the same time, in spite of the recession, the small-scale sector is able to withstand the situation and is able to provide the opportunities for the people in that particular sector; and as you are aware, the Government is giving enough weightage to the small-scale sector. There is a collateral free composite loan up to a limit of Rs. 25 lakhs for individual small-scale units. Secondly, there is a credit-linked capital subsidy scheme for technology scheme for technology upgradation. 12 per cent of loan is given for technology upgradation for the individual SSIs. Sir, you are also aware that under the single point registration scheme, 358 items are reserved exclusively for purchase from the SSIs by the Central Government, and we hope that the State Governments also follow the same. Some of the State Governments are doing it also. Then, I come to the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana. Loans up to Rs. two lakhs, with a subsidy up to 7.5 per cent, for potential entrepreneurs are given. Assistance up to 50 per cent or Rs. 50 lakhs, whichever is less, is given for setting up the testing centres, they are available for the industrial associations. This is another initiative taken by this Government. We also have the integrated infrastructure development. Then we have mini-tool rooms, and assistance up to 90 per cent or Rs. nine crores, whichever is less, is given for setting up a mini-tool room. We have also raised the exemption limit for excise duty from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. one crore to improve the competitiveness of the small-scale sector. We are also providing the credit-linked subsidy of 12 per cent as loan for technology upgradation. I have also mentioned about raising the limit of investment in industrial units, service and business enterprises from Rs. five lakhs to Rs. ten lakhs. This is also a major initiative taken to see that the small-scale sector survives. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat) : Sir, the biggest problem that the small-scale industry is facing today is regarding the working capital to be provided to such units. The Reserve Bank appointed one Committee, known as the Nayak Committee. It recommended that at least 20 per cent should be provided by way of working capital to the SSI units. But till today, the survey shows that not more than eight per cent of the total requirement of working capital is being provided by the financial institutions. On the one hand, the banks are flushed with the funds. But, on the other hand,

because of one reason or the other, this recommendation has not been implemented at all, and because of this lack of working capital in the SSI sector, some of the difficulties have arisen. I would also request the Minister to throw some light on it if he has any information.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I take note of the point made by the hon. Member. Sir, with regard to composite loans, earlier it was Rs. 10 lakhs. Now, it has been enhanced to Rs. 25 lakhs. Even with regard to the PMRY, as you are aware, the family income eligibility limit was Rs. 24,000/- earlier. Keeping in view the value of the rupee, it has been enhanced to Rs. 40,000/- per annum under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana, which finances the setting up of the micro enterprises and generate employment for the people in the rural areas.

This is also another initiative taken by the Government. As I told you, we have many schemes. For example, the Employment Insurance Scheme and the Sampuran Gram Rojgar Yojana. In this, there is enough opportunity to provide employment to the people. Shri Gavai has mentioned about the Maharashtra experiment. It is a very good experiment. In those days when the Janata party was in power, I very well remember, that scheme was very popular, particularly, the NREP, and then it has become RLEGP, the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme. Keeping that in mind, only recently, the Prime Minister constituted a Standing Committee of the Chief Ministers, the Minister of Finance, the Agricultural Minister and myself. We sat together; we had discussions and came to a conclusion. The Maharashtra CM was there; the Madhya Pradesh CM was there; there were representatives of other States also. All of us had come to the conclusion that we might make a beginning in that direction. The beginning is this--the Sampurana Gramin Rozgar Yojana of Rs.10,000 crores. The idea is to move to the ideal situations, like in Maharashtra. Whoever goes to the concerned Government officers at the village level must be provided employment, or, in the alternative, he must be provided some wage, if they are not able to show employment. Sir, this is the spirit of that, and we are moving in that direction. To start with, we have made available this Scheme now to the States, and we have told them, "If you perform better, we will think of raising it further." Ten thousand crores of rupees per year is not an ordinary amount.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Mr. Minister, please listen to me. You have mentioned about the Rural Development schemes. Maybe, the JGSY, SGSY or EAS; if you see the allocation of funds for these Schemes, it is less every year, and if you compare the allocation of funds and the expenditure for these Schemes, you will find that the expenditure is not incurred fully, as per the allocation. So, you have to take these points seriously, and this is the answer given on the floor of the House by the Government. The Government has agreed that the fiscal achievements under these Schemes show some decline, if you compare them with the last three years.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, we are talking in terms of overall opportunities that are provided. It is a fact that, earlier, certain schemes were allocation-based. Subsequently, they were changed to demand-driven. If you are able to spend more, then you are getting more in some schemes. In certain schemes, allocations are made on the basis of the poverty-ratio provided in a State.

Sir, I am coming to the point which you have raised, as also Gavaiji. Gavaiji, of course, has made a sweeping remark and condemned everything, saying that nothing is happening, this scheme is not there; the houses are not here, and all that. I am not inclined to accept it. He may be speaking out of his experience in his State, but, that also, I am not in agreement with for this simple reason. I have recently visited Maharashtra. I had a review meeting with the Chief Minister, and also with the Rural Development Minister, and I had come to the conclusion--Maharashtra also is implementing this Rural Development Scheme to the satisfaction--that there is always scope for improvement. Sir, I can tell you that, every year, we are constructing 25 lakh houses for the below-the-poverty-line people, and there is a clause saying that this has to be identified by the Gram Sabhas. I do admit, in some States, the in-charge Ministers are allotting it; in some States, the District Administrator is allotting it; and the Gram Sabhas are not to identify the beneficiaries, but, at the same time, I will have to take the House into confidence that the country is ruled by different political parties in different States. My entire performance of the rural development depends on the performance of the State Governments. We are in a federal structure; we plan; we allocate money; we release it. We also lay down certain conditions like "Unless you spend 60 per cent of the first instalment, you will not be eligible for the second instalment." This is a

clause which we have put to see that the States take interest to spend the money on time. But the hon. Member from Jammu & Kashmir has just now told me, "You are insisting on utilisation certificates. Getting utilisation certificates is taking time; so, release the second instalment also, without waiting for the first instalment." Then I will get the criticism that the money is being released but it is not reaching the people who are targeted. That is why, we are insisting on proper utilisation certificates by the competent authority. This is number one. And secondly, we have a vast number of schemes, and we also have a good amount of money for rural development, which takes care of these aspects, as I told you, of housing, sanitation and drinking water. Now, Sir, road connectivity; another new activity taken up by this Government to provide connectivity to the rural areas; up to a population of 1,000 at the first instance, 500 at the second instance. The idea is to cover all villages up to a population of 500 by 2007. We have, so far, released, in the first year, Rs.2,500 crores; the second year, Rs.2,500 crores. We have released it. To many of the States, proposals have been sent; they have been approved, and some of them have accorded tenders. So, the works are in progress in some States, and in other States, the activity is picking up now. The Rural Connectivity Programme will go a long way in providing rural connectivity. It will also provide some opportunities of employment to the work-force in the rural areas. If you look at the figures, you will find that there is a decline in the workforce. There is a decline in the employment opportunities also. I do admit that. The workforce is declining because, no longer, as I have mentioned earlier, people are willing to do labour. They want to go in for better opportunities. That may be one of the reasons for the decline in the workforce. We are also having the major problem of population increasing every year. The population is going up in spite of our best efforts. I am not trying to justify it; I am only saying that because the population is increasing, the unemployment is also increasing. They are correlated. But, at the same time, the Government is alive to the reality. So, road connectivity is another programme.

Then, there is the self-employment programme. There are 6,30,000 self-help groups in the country. We have decided recently, in a conference of all Chief Ministers and Ministers--there were 5 Chief Ministers and 23 Ministers--that we have to take up this self-employment programme, encourage the self-help group, across the country and make it a people's movement. Today, wherever this self-help group is active, there is a visible

change. People, particularly, women, are coming forward and forming a group. They are getting revolving funds. Banks are giving credit to them. The Chairman of NABARD told me and I am happy to convey it to the House that the repayment by this self-help group is 99.5 per cent. You see the NPA of the so-called big industries and the response of the ordinary women who are getting activated into this. So, my idea is to create 40 lakh self-help groups in the next three years so that there is an increase in the employment opportunities. The hon. Finance Minister, to give a further incentive to this programme, has announced that if one becomes a self-help group activist, he or she will be covered by insurance, like the Kisan Credit Card Scheme, where he will pay Rs.15 per year, and his life will be covered; in the case of accident--Rs.25,000, and, in the case of death-- Rs. 50,000. Out of the fifteen rupees, ten rupees will be paid by the banks and five rupees will be paid by the farmer. Keeping that in mind, some incentives are extended to this self-help groups also.

We have also got a massive Watershed Development Programme. We have the Food-for-Work Programme. The other day I just intervened and said that 31 lakh tonnes of foodgrains had been released by the Government of India to various States. Out of the 31 lakh tonnes of foodgrains, the States have lifted a good amount of foodgrains. But, unfortunately, they are not able lift them fully.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुरेश पचीरी) : मंत्री जी, जब इस विषय पर चर्चा हो तब आप इस पर बात कीजिएगा। अभी आप अनएम्प्लायमेंट पर आइए।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: This is another scheme which the Government of India has, to provide employment in the rural areas because we have enough foodgrains. This is another way of tackling the unemployment problem in the rural areas.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: How long are we going to sit?

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: It was designated as a kind-and-coin programme; 50 per cent by way of coin and 50 per cent by way of food. Of course, it relates to generating employment in the rural areas. May I draw your attention to something? I will take only two minutes. I am very happy that you have assured that the Employment Guarantee Scheme, which is under implementation in Maharashtra, is under your active

consideration. By the by, the total expenditure under the Employment Guarantee Scheme is to the tune of Rs.1,600 crores. If an amount of Rs.10,000 is given by the Government of India, it will ensure the success of the Scheme throughout the country. In Maharashtra, we share the poverty of the poor by imposing professional tax, etc. I have a constructive suggestion to make. I am not saying something that is done. What about the review of the Scheme? What about the evaluation of the Scheme? How accountability is there? I share the idea of Mr. Suryabhan Patil Vahadane. He spoke yesterday in those terms.

मिर्जा अब्दुल रशीद : सर, रोजे का टाइम हो रहा है।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I am mindful of that. The idea is to move in the direction of rural employment guarantee programme, to give assured employment to everybody. Secondly, the rural credit, which was Rs.40,000 crores when this Government came to power, has been enhanced to Rs.65,000 crores. The Infrastructure Development Fund of the NABARD, which is used in the rural areas, has been enhanced from Rs.2,500 crores to Rs.5,000 crores by the NABARD.

That way, the Government is alive to the reality and we are trying to take all the necessary steps that are possible to provide them self-employment in the rural areas by involving them in infrastructure works in the rural areas, by involving them in various vocational activities. As I said in the beginning, -- we have very little time today -- our effort is to achieve a target of 8 per cent GDP growth which will take care of the major issues. Secondly, we would like to bring a perceptual change in the minds of the people. Thirdly, we would like to move towards the direction of self-employment. One has to be very frank. We may criticise each other for political reasons. The fourth is providing employment and that too white-collar employment or employment in the organised sector. Here the chances are comparatively less. But opportunities are more. The Government would focus on providing self-employment in rural areas by giving them credit, by giving them training and by giving them the needed support. ...*(Interruptions)*...

मिर्जा अब्दुल रशीद : उपसमाध्यक्ष महोदय, अब रोज़ा-इपतार का समय हो रहा है।

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : महोदय, इसे कल कंटीन्यू किया जाए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुरेश पखीरी) : इस विषय पर मंत्री जी अपना reply कल जारी रखेंगे। अब सदन की कार्यवाही गुरुवार, 6 दिसंबर, 2001 प्रातः 11 बजे तक स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned at twenty-six minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 6th December, 2001