

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Hundred and Ninety-eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): Sir, I beg to make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Hundred and Ninety-eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry.

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Hundred and Ninety-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to make a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Hundred and Ninety-sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development pertaining to University and Higher Education.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, Calling Attention. Shri D. Raja.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The situation arising out of the large scale loss of jobs due to retrenchment and closure of industries including industries in the IT Sector as a result of global economic slowdown and recession and Government's reaction thereto

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the situation arising out of the large scale loss of jobs due to retrenchment and closure of industries including industries in the IT Sector as a result of global economic slowdown and recession and Government's reaction thereto. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, we have not received the copy of the statement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): It is being circulated.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): Sir, the impact of global slowdown on the Indian economy has been felt since the middle of 2008. Keeping in view the importance and multi-faceted nature of the challenge, the Ministry of Labour and Employment convened the 42nd Session of Indian Labour Conference, which epitomizes the process of tripartite consultation, in February, 2009. An agenda item on 'Global Financial Crisis — its effect viz., large-scale downsizing, lay-offs, wage cut and job losses, etc.' was discussed by the Conference in this sitting. Measures suggested by the Conference to fight global slowdown include urgent steps to stimulate domestic demand, greater investment in infrastructure and housing, and strict implementation of labour laws.

To counter the negative fallout of the global slowdown on the Indian economy, Government of India provided three focussed fiscal stimulus packages in the form of tax relief and increased expenditure on public projects while the RBI took a number of monetary-easing and liquidity enhancing steps in order to boost domestic demand. These measures have helped in keeping the Indian economy on growth trajectory, though at a moderate level when compared with the performance of the recent past.

As is evident from the Budget for the year 2009-10 presented by the Hon. Finance Minister, the Government has continued with the policies aimed at boosting demand, generating employment and creating infrastructure in rural and urban areas through measures such as enhancing the exemption limit in personal income tax, eliminating the surcharge on personal income tax, raising the deduction limit under section 80-DD in respect of maintenance of a dependent who is a person with severe disability, and increased public expenditure, especially on social sector programmes. These measures are also likely to act as a safety net for the vulnerable sections of society including the workers who may have lost their jobs as a result of economic slowdown.

To boost construction activity, which generates substantial employment in the economy, interest rate subsidy has been offered for housing loan borrowers from the lower and middle-income groups. In addition, individual Ministries and Departments have also taken steps to counter the adverse effects of global slowdown on the Indian economy. These include interest subvention of two per cent to export intensive sectors, that is, textiles (including handlooms), handicrafts, leather, gems and jewellery, marine products and SMEs; additional funds of Rs. 1400 crore for the Ministry of Textiles to clear the backlog claims of textile units under Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF); and putting in place a high level monitoring mechanism so that immediate further corrective measures can be taken as may be required.

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, puts restriction on lay-offs and retrenchment and provides protection to the workmen in case of lay-off, retrenchment and closure of establishments. Moreover, Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana through the ESI Corporation which provides unemployment allowance for up to one year to those insured employees who have put in five years of service and have been rendered jobless due to retrenchment, closure of factories or permanent disability due to non-employment injury.

Our Ministry is closely monitoring the situation. The State Governments have also been advised to make their industrial conciliation machinery more effective and sensitive to ensure industrial peace and implement labour laws in an appropriate manner so that the interest of the workmen is protected.

I share the concerns of the Hon. Members on the matter and assure the House that our Government is taking all possible steps to successfully address this challenge. However, I

welcome the suggestions of the Hon. Members to successfully handle the situation which has arisen due to the current global economic slowdown.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, at the outset, I am sorry to state that the Government is under-estimating the grave situation that has emerged due to the global melt down or due to the recession. I do not think that the response by the Government is adequate to meet the challenges of the situation. The Government need not be so pessimistic and take it as an opportunity to take certain drastic measures. Firstly, I must point out that the neo-liberal economic paradigm of development has proved to be disastrous, and in the Indian context it is all the more necessary that Government reviews its policies and takes mid-course corrections of these economic policies which are proved to be really disastrous, particularly for the working people and toiling people. The situation is very challenging. India's most important challenge lies in the area of job creation, particularly for the young population that is at the emergence of growth. The World Bank estimates that every one per cent decline in the growth rate in the developing countries traps an additional 20 million people in poverty. India would need to respond to this slowdown by creating jobs in urban and rural spaces, and by providing vocational training and skill-development programmes for the unemployed rural and urban youth. Sir, our hon. Minister must be aware that there is a survey conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment which states that in the last quarter of 2008, five lakh workers lost their jobs. The survey was based on a fairly large sample size across sectors such as textiles, automobiles, gems and jewellery, metals, mining, construction, transport, BPO and Information Technology sectors. Employment in these sectors went down from 16.2 million during September 2008 to 15.7 million during December 2008. Further in the manufacturing contract category of workers, employment declined in all the sectors. It is in your own Ministry's survey. Having said this, Sir, I think that Government's response is not adequate. According to the other surveys, one million jobs were lost in 2008. In almost all sectors, hiring has been slowed down by 30 per cent to 50 per cent in the worst-affected sectors. Seven lakh jobs have been lost in textiles and Government sector alone. Fifty one per cent of the jobs were shelved in the automobiles sector. Lay-offs have become the order of the day. In real estate sector, I must point out, where billionaires were made out of millionaires in the last five years, 78 per cent of the planned hiring was affected. Lay-off is a daily routine in the hospitality industry. Our Minister is also sitting here. Due to financial melt down, severe joblessness has been emerged. Fifty per cent of the expected jobs were slashed. In retail sector, with a boom at one point of time, \$ 150 billion got nipped in the bud.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

IT and software is one of the sectors hard hit because India is one of the major outsourcing destinations of the West. Sixty per cent of the business is dependent on the United States of America and the European Union. Here, it is very much needed to take note of what President Obama has said. He has said that he would provide jobs in Buffalo, not Bangalore. It is a very

important statement made by the American President. Export target of \$ 60 billion was eluding them. More lay-offs are expected. There is also joblessness in the engineering and small-scale industries and 51 per cent of the jobs have taken a hit already. I am touching this issue. Even the Secretary of Commerce Ministry admitted that one million jobs have been lost since April, 2009. So, having given all these facts, now, I come to the Government's response. Our Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, in the last Indian Labour Conference in February, 2009, put forward a proposal of reduced wages to protect the jobs. That was the suggestion made by the Finance Minister. Our Government sees the crisis exclusively of private corporate sector liquidity and profitability. Therefore, range of steps - regulation in FDI and FII, tax concessions, export subsidies, forcing public sector banks to prop up share prices by purchasing, boosting demand for real estate by forcing public sector banks to make loans cheap, reducing price of aviation turbine fuel, etc. - have been announced. Here also, the Government claims that it has made three financial stimulus packages. But, how were these stimulus packages used in the interest of working people? I will come to this a little later.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No little later because there are eleven other speakers also.

SHRI D. RAJA: My pointed query is that several short-term and long-term remedial measures were recommended by the Indian Labour Conference held in February, 2009. But, none of them has been implemented. Recently, a tripartite Expert Group, facilitated by ILO, Delhi, also gave a comprehensive report on three specifically affected sectors - construction, textiles, and gems and jewellery - besides general recommendations providing for short-term and long-term measures and these are yet to see the light of the day. Now, Sir, I would come to some immediate remedies to face the situation. I think, there should be no bail-out rescue programme to the employers or corporates without ensuring that there will be no retrenchment and no wage cut of the workers. (*Time-bell rings*) Secondly, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act should be universalised and urban employment guarantee Act should be enacted and provision should be made for providing for 180 days of employment. The Government can consider all these things. Sir, increasing the scope of PDS without the restriction or coverage based on Poverty Line. All stimulus packages need to focus on employment retention and creation of employment opportunities. Stimulus packages should be sector specific, area specific. It is no use announcing general stimulus packages. You must be very specific. Extending benefits to vulnerable workers, informal sector workers is critical. Immediate relief packages must be given to the affected groups. Extend social insurance protection to all affected workers whether they are officially Below Poverty Line or above the poverty line. (*Time-bell rings*) I am completing, Sir. Recognise workforce engaged in ICDS, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, ASHA, girl teachers, Shiksha Mitra and so on and bring them under the statutory minimum wage and social security.

Sir, you have to immediately strengthen the National Policy on skill development. Sir, you will have to reassess and make effective the Migrant Workers Act. You will also have to revise minimum wage rate for both the urban and agricultural workers and ensure its strict implementation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raja, please conclude. Already, you have taken enough time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, I am completing. It is my last sentence. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please resolve the issue of non-registration of workers, which is one of the major constraints...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All that can be made available to the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, it is my last sentence. Resolve the issue of non-registration of workers which is one of the major constraints in the implementation of welfare schemes.

Sir, I understand that in totality, whatever the Government is doing is not adequate to face the challenges of the situation. As far as macro level issues are concerned, I appeal to the Government to review the policies pursued by the Government and make suitable amendments. Sir, the neo-liberal paradigm has proved to be disastrous. On other micro-level issues, I have suggested many things. It is up to the Government. The Government should not be pessimistic. It should have confidence in the workforce, the working people of the country. They are the builders of our economy; they are the creators of wealth of our economy. So, please safeguard the interests of the workers. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Mohammed Amin. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, Tapan's name is there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Mr. Tapan's name is there. But it is not party-wise. Now, Shri R.C. Singh. I would like to again remind the hon. Members that it is 'Calling Attention'. So, please seek clarifications only, no speeches. ...*(Interruptions)*... क्लैरिफिकेशन्स चेयर ही रेग्युलेट करती है। बोलने की जरूरत नहीं है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... Please. Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री कमाल अख्तर (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, बिना भूमिका बनाए हिंदुस्तान में कोई क्लैरिफिकेशन हो ही नहीं सकता है।

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, नहीं, अभी भूमिका के लिए समय नहीं है। ...*(Interruptions)*... I will have to stop at one p.m.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, the trade union leaders are there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Here, there is no distinction like this. All are Members of this House. There is no distinction between Members and trade union leaders. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, they are fighting for the causes. ...*(Interruptions)*... They are working class representatives. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... आर.सी. सिंह जी, अपना क्लैरिफिकेशन पूछिए। Please. Please.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : सर, मैं बहुत शॉर्ट में ही जानना चाहूंगा। सरकार ने भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर वैश्विक मंदी के नकारात्मक प्रभाव को दूर करने के लिए तीन stimulus packages दिए थे, जिनमें कुछ रिलीफ दी गई थी और वह रिलीफ प्राइवेट सेक्टर और कॉरपोरेट हाउसेज को दी गई। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि यह रिलीफ देने के बाद कितने जॉब create हुए हैं, इसका कोई assessment सरकार के पास है?

दूसरी बात मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि कंस्ट्रक्शन एरिया में जहां बड़ी मात्रा में रोजगार का सृजन हो सकता है, लेबर को काम मिल सकता है, सरकार ने lower और middle income groups के लिए हाउसिंग लोन देने की बात कही थी, interest rate पर सबसिडी देने की बात कही थी। इस rebate से उन labourers को कैसे मदद मिल सकती है, इसके बारे में सरकार का क्या विचार है, वह हम जानना चाहते हैं। महोदय, जो small और home industries हैं, उनको सरकार किस तरीके से रिलीफ देने की बात सोचती है या क्या व्यवस्था है, वह मैं जानना चाहता हूं। साथ ही इसके परिणामस्वरूप क्या रोजगार का सृजन हो सकता है, सरकार से यह बात मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूं।

महोदय, मैं इस सरकार को धन्यवाद देता हूं कि ESI के माध्यम से वह श्रमिक कल्याण योजना को लागू कर रही है, जिसके द्वारा retrenchment, closure of factories, lay-offs आदि से जो लोग अपने jobs खो चुके हैं... उनको unemployment allowance दिया जाएगा। लेकिन यहां पर एक problem है कि जो worker पांच साल से उस factory में काम कर रहा होगा, सिर्फ उसी को यह लाभ मिलेगा। क्या यह मियाद कम करके एक साल से भी कम की जा सकती है जिससे एक साल से कम काम करने वाले या contract workers के रूप में काम करने वाले लोगों को इसमें रिलीफ मिल सके? इसके बारे में सरकार की क्या धारणा है, क्या विचार है और सरकार इस पर क्या कर रही है?...*(समय की घंटी)*... सर, मेरा तीसरा प्वाइंट है कि United National Conference on Trade and Development ने यह बताया कि 12 लाख वर्कर्स अपनी जॉब खो चुके हैं। textile workers, जो सबसे ज्यादा jobs provide करते हैं, उसमें पांच लाख वर्कर्स अपनी jobs खो चुके हैं। इसी प्रकार diamond और jewellery industry में तीन लाख से ज्यादा लोग jobs खो चुके हैं और लगभग 70 से ज्यादा लोग आत्महत्या कर चुके हैं। यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि इनके ऊपर सरकार का कोई ध्यान नहीं गया है कि इनको कैसे रिलीफ पहुंचाया जा सकता है या stimulus package से उनको क्या लाभ मिल सकता है? इसके बारे में मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूं। महोदय, आज private sector की हालत बहुत खराब है। private sector की बात छोड़ दीजिए, public sector में भी हालत अच्छी नहीं है। सर, 48th Survey of the Public Enterprises के अनुसार 44 हजार वर्कर्स पिछले दिनों अपनी नौकरियां खो चुके हैं। अगर आप इस पर ध्यान देंगे कि 1980 से 2007 के बीच जो सबसे lowest category के वर्कर्स हैं...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: अब हो गया। श्री एन.के. सिंह। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

एक माननीय सदस्य: वे केवल क्लैरिफिकेशंस पूछ रहे हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't plead for another Member because you will be encroaching on somebody's rights.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: मैं केवल प्वाइंट्स दे रहा हूं। 2007-08 में 12 लाख 58 लोग public sector में रह गए हैं यानी इसमें 6 लाख की कमी आयी है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All that has been spoken by your leader.

श्री आर.सी.सिंह: हो सकता है। चौथा सवाल यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि IT sector में professionals की जो बुरी हालत हुई है, उससे इस sector के कितने वर्कर्स प्रभावित हुए हैं और उनको rehabilitate करने के लिए मंत्री महोदय क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं? धन्यवाद।

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Sir, I have three basic clarifications to seek from the hon. Minister. First is on prevarication of data and conflicting data on total amount of unemployment which has been created and the backlog which we have been carrying. Sir, I see this because, for instance, the data given by a recent publication of the UNCTAD suggests a very high level of job loss in the last three months. The sample survey of the Ministry has a very thin sample, also suggesting a very high degree of job loss. For instance, the data of the International Labour Organisation has one kind of projection in which the job losses are much higher than is admitted by the Ministry. So, my first request is: Can we have a more reliable, authentic data on (a) the extent of unemployment; (b) the accentuation of unemployment on account of economic slow down; and (c) the amount of unemployment generated as a result of more and more people coming?

My second small, little clarification is that in the light of the growing volume of unemployment is the Government considering a social security scheme for the urban poor; and in what kind of timeframe is that scheme being contemplated?

My third point is that whereas we have an economic policy, we don't have the national employment policy. This is because whereas growth is necessary for employment, growth is not in a sufficient condition for generation of adequate number of jobs looking at the variations in the employment coefficient of different sectors. So, instead of bailing out, for instance, illustratively speaking, Sir, the airlines and so on, will the Government think of getting a package to those segments of the economy which have been highly labour intensive and which have been very adversely affected on account of the economic melt down?

Finally, Sir, before I end, I will say that the extent of skill inculcation and vocational training which is being given in the various initiatives of the Prime Minister amount, if all goes well, to a miniscule two million people as compared to perhaps 50 million people who require this kind of succour and relief. So what kind of a scaling-up is needed which will make a deep dent on the extent of growing unemployment?

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, recession can be described as a decline in a country's GDP for two or more consecutive quarters in a year.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please seek clarifications.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Yes, Sir. Recession in the West, especially in the US, is directly affecting India. Because we used to get a lot of work outsourced from the US only. This has resulted in reduced export, which is up to 22 per cent. The FIEO (Federation of Indian Export Organisations) has predicted job loss of more than one crore. But it is not mentioned here.

The Minister has stated that effective measures are being taken through the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to put restriction on lay-offs. More than one crore people are likely to lose their jobs. The decrease in production is 10-50 per cent. This is predicted by FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry). It is contrary to the Statement made by the Minister. They say that lay-off is continuing. There is cut in promotions, compensations and perks to employees. No new recruitment is taking place. Also, no new projects are being taken up.

At this juncture, the Government has to give tax reduction. The Minister has enumerated whatever has already been given through the Budget like relief for export sector, individual tax relief, etc.

I would like the Minister to especially focus on creating more jobs, boosting manufacturing sector thereby increasing exports, and attracting builders by reducing unrealistic price prevailing here. Thank you, Sir.

DR. BARUN MUKHERJI (West Bengal): Sir, it has been stated in the statement that the Government has taken measures for boosting demand and generating employment. But it is a generalised statement. I would like to know the specific data in support of the statement. I believe that this is a generalised statement and it is not based on facts. The picture is completely different.

Secondly, as per the recent data, released by the Ministry of Commerce, it is stated that for the consecutive nine months, the export to the US and other European countries, which are the major markets for India, has declined by 27.7 per cent, while the import has declined by 29.3 per cent indicating fall in domestic consumption. What is the Minister's answer to this? There is decline in export trend and decline in import trend. How can we overcome it, and what are the specific measures that the Government has taken so far, should be clarified.

Thirdly, it may be a matter of suggestion. Due to extensive job loss, whether the Government is prepared to extend NREGA for urban unemployed people. That can be a positive counteracting force to this problem. But the Government has not made any proposal. I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to extend it to urban people who are increasingly losing jobs.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR (Maharashtra): Sir, I will take just three minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Clarifications only.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Sir, I will take a couple of minutes. Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister is outrageous. The plight is miserable, and the action is non-existent. We say that this is an extraordinary situation. And this situation requires extraordinary solution.

So, I have three specific queries based upon the experience of the last one year. Sir, the statement says that Section 80-DD of the Income-Tax Act is an enabling provision for helping out and NREGA is the answer. It talks about the social security net. This is ridiculous. There are

more than 100 suicides and there is more pressure. Ten lakh skilled workers, twenty lakh semi-skilled workers and twenty lakh unskilled workers from across the board industries have lost their jobs. This is a serious situation. And, what are you promising now? As my colleague was saying, out of Employees State Insurance Act, you are going to give some compensation. The Act says that you must pay 50 per cent of the salary for six months. Irrespective of whether somebody is covered under ESIA or not, everybody who has lost the job needs help. My query is: Is the Government ready to give subsistence allowance? Secondly, the ESIA must be extended for 18 months or two years. Is the Government ready for that? Thirdly, the big problem of middle class who have lost their jobs is that they are burdened with EMLs for housing loans and other things. You must stop those EMLs. Unless you ask the banks and the financial institutions for not pressing for EMLs, at least, for one year or 18 months, they will not be able to get any help. Is the Government ready to do these three things?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Hema Malini. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no, it is not according to parties. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Subbarami Reddy, it is according to the list we have prepared. It is not on the basis of timings. ...*(Interruptions)*... She is a retiring Member. Please listen carefully.

SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI (Nominated): Honourable Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on global recession. After this, I would like to make my farewell speech since this is going to be the last day for me. I hope, I will be given time for that. The current recession is the result of reduction in the demand of products in the global market. Recession in the West, especially the United States, is a very bad news for our country. Our companies in India have most outsourcing deals from the US. Even our exports to the US have increased over the years. Indian companies with big ticket deals in the US would see their profit margins shrinking. There is a decline in the employment market due to the recession in the West. There has been a significant drop in the new hiring which is a cause of great concern for us. Some companies have laid off their employees and there have been cuts in promotions, compensation and perks of the employees. Companies in the private sector and Government sector are hesitant to take up new projects. And they are working on existing projects only. The textile, garment and handicraft industry are worse affected. There has also been a decline in the tourist inflow lately. The real estate has also a problem of tight liquidity situations, where the developers are finding it hard to raise finances.

IT industries, financial sectors, real estate owners, car industry, investment banking and other industries as well are confronting heavy loss due to the downfall of global economy. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) found that faced with the global recession, inventories industries like garment, gems, textiles, chemicals and jewellery had cut production by 10 to 50 per cent. How to tackle the global slump? Obama says, 'Our economy is shrinking, unemployment rolls are growing, businesses and families can't get credit

and small businesses can't secure the loans. They need to create jobs and get their products to market.' With the stakes this high, we can't afford to get trapped in the same old partisan gridlock.

Sir, the following measures can be adopted to tackle the recession: Tax cuts are generally the first step that any Government should take during slump; the Government should hike its spending to create more jobs and boost the manufacturing sectors in the country; the Government should also take steps to help the private sector to come out of the crisis; and the Government should try to increase the export against the initial export target.

The way out for builders is to reduce the unrealistic prices of property to bring back the buyers into the market and thus raise the finances for incomplete projects that they are developing. The falling rupee against the dollar will bring a boost in the export industry, though the buyers may be scarce in the west. The decline in oil prices has a positive impact on the importers.

Hundred per cent transparency should be maintained in public distribution. We need to have faster mechanisms for implementation of the policies. The Government should take up more responsibility in bringing more awareness about the micro finance system in the rural areas. The Government should monitor utilisation of allocated Budget for various sectors like defence, farming and other core sectors. The media and entertainment industry should also play an important role in the revival of the Indian economy. The unfortunate part is that India, which is endowed with rich culture and a glorious entertainment industry, with an enviable global reach, has never put in a concerted national effort to gather the billions that the Hollywood does.

These are my few observations and humble suggestions. I hope all parties come together, leaving aside their differences, in quickly reviving the Indian economy. Thank you so much.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. I will be only seeking clarifications and nothing else.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: So, you kindly allow me to seek all clarifications that I want.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How many?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I am starting.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How many?

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: All the clarifications I want to seek. I am sure that I will be within time. I would like to compliment the hon. Labour Minister for he has not tried to make a quantitative assessment of how many people lost their jobs due to global recession because no figure is given here, although my colleague, Shri N.K. Singh, has stressed upon the necessity of

quantifying it. But sometimes quantification becomes difficult. It boils itself down to a ridiculous position as the Economic Survey has identified that six lakh people have lost their jobs due to recession, which is a ridiculous survey.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not a question.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I think, a much more ground-level close scrutiny is required to quantify the extent of loss and the composition of the workforce where job has been lost. A number of suggestions, things and steps have been mentioned in the statement made by the hon. Minister. But to make those measures really effective and to reach the workers, certain basic conditions have to be ensured.

The hon. Minister has referred to the Forty-second Session of the Indian Labour Conference where this global crisis has been discussed. At the Forty-second Session of the Indian Labour Conference certain unanimous suggestions have been made by all the three parties, the Government, the employers and the trade unions, together. One of the important unanimous recommendations is to extend the Employment Guarantee Scheme to the urban areas. It was recommended in February, 2009. I don't expect that, in August, you will be implementing it fully. But kindly let us know — this is a clarification — the steps taken by the Labour Ministry to implement that most crucial unanimous recommendation of the Forty-second Session of the Indian Labour Conference which has been referred to by the hon. Minister in his statement. The first question is regarding the implementation of that.

Secondly, the statement says that the Government has continued the policy aimed at boosting the demand. A number of policies have been mentioned. Along with that, it is also mentioned that the exemption limit of income tax has been increased by Rs.10,000. I do not understand this. When you look at the composition of the workforce, the number of persons losing jobs in the export-oriented sector...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Tapan Kumar Sen, there are more explanations than clarifications.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Has the Minister made an assessment as to how many of them are covered by his exemption limit of income tax? So, I think, this kind of statement is unwarranted; the problem is deeper. Thirdly, the hon. Minister has also mentioned about measures taken, under the Labour Laws, for providing reliefs to those who have lost their jobs. Now, that includes the ESI Corporations' provision for providing unemployment relief. Would he kindly enlighten us with the figures? From October, 2008, up till September, 2009, how many persons, who have lost their jobs because of the impact of recession, have been given these benefits under the ESI? Would he please give us the figures? I am a grassroot trade union activist, and I can tell you that as per the estimates, the number of people, lost jobs in the export-oriented units, is more than 3 million...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have already taken more time.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Ninety per cent of them are not covered by the ESI. So, how many people have been given relief? And, would the hon. Minister kindly verify the statement, made by me, that 90 per cent of the workers in the affected area, who have lost their jobs, are not covered by ESI at all?

My last point is about the stimulus package that is being spoken about. The stimulus package, issued before the Budget, was about Rs. 1,85,000 crores. What our experience has been is that the employers could arrest the decline of the bottomline by using the stimulus package. But it has not helped in restoring the employment lost. So, my clarification from the hon. Minister is this. Would he kindly consider — of course, his Ministry alone cannot consider it; the whole Government has to consider it — linking their stimulus package, in order to come out of recession, with the conditionality of protection of employment? Otherwise, stimulus package, funded out of public exchequer, will help only a handful of employers, but the Aam Aadmi will stand neglected; they will lose their jobs and will reel under poverty and impoverished conditions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. K. Malaisamy. I know, you are a management student. Please be brief.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I will, certainly, go by your word, and confine myself within the time limit.

The sum and substance of observations of my colleagues is that this global recession, or, global economic crisis, has got a cascading effect across the world, not only in India but also in every part of the world. But our financial Pandits in India, including the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Prime Minister and others, were able to say that it has got only a marginal effect. But, as per the information given by the Managing Director of the International Monetary fund, it will have a negative effect throughout the world...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Convert it into questions for clarifications.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: While seeking clarifications, I want to give a small backdrop. In other words, the effect on industrial sector, the effect of employment, is cascading. This is the way our friends are able to tell us today. For the information of the House, I would just say that the industrial growth has come down...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Kindly don't provide extra inputs now. You seek clarifications on the statement.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, as far as employment is concerned, you may kindly note that the layoffs, firing and hiring, salary cuts, etc., are taking place left and right. The leading companies have laid off five per cent of the workforce, and in the textile industry, seven lakh jobs have been lost...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are not seeking clarifications on the statement. You are giving certain new information to the Minister. You can write to him.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, what is the total job loss? Sir, to magnify the problem, I am saying...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, you have given me two minutes. I would certainly finish within two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I shall ask the reporters to stop taking notes after two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. MALAISAMY: The total number of jobs lost in the industrial sector is 1.6 million in 2008-09 and 1.30 million in the next year. There is so much job loss. The Minister has read out a statement and said that he is seized of the matter and is taking enough steps. Having read the statement where he has cited various measures, I would like to ask him whether the measures taken by him are adequate and effective. According to me, it is more on paper and is not going to be a reality. On the other hand, the industrial management knows how to manipulate the laws, how to tackle the Labour department and how to violate the Industrial Disputes Act. There are lay-offs, there are suspensions and employees are being thrown out all over. What is the machinery you have got? You say that you have taken enough measures, but it is on paper. In my opinion, the measures that you have mentioned here must be implemented.

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, वैश्विक वित्तीय संकट का प्रभाव पूरे देश पर पड़ा है। इसके तहत नौकरियों में कटौती हुई, काम बन्द हुए, उद्योग-धंधे बन्द हुए, लाखों लोग बेरोजगार हुए और जो रोजगार के अवसर थे, वे बहुत तेजी के साथ कम हुए। माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो स्टेटमेंट दिया है और उन्होंने जो उपाय बताने का काम किया है, वह संतोषजनक नहीं है। इस आर्थिक मंदी से निबटने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार के द्वारा जो उपाय किए जा रहे हैं, वे भी बहुत घातक हैं। सर, विश्व बैंक की एक रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि विकासशील देशों की आर्थिक विकास दर इस साल 1.6 प्रतिशत तक गिर सकती है। इसका मतलब है कि इस देश में लाखों लोग गरीबी के शिकार हो जाएंगे।

सर, जहाँ तक आईटी सेक्टर का सवाल है, आईटी सेक्टर पहले प्रति तिमाही 9 प्रतिशत रोजगार देता था और इस आर्थिक मंदी का असर यह हो गया है कि यह जो 9 प्रतिशत प्रति तिमाही रोजगार देने का काम करता था, आज वह घट कर 2.3 प्रतिशत रह गया है।

श्री उपसभापति: आप अपना clarification पूछिए।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव: सर, मैं उस पर आ रहा हूँ।

भारतीय वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के एक सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार पिछले साल अगस्त से अक्टूबर महीने के बीच निर्यात आधारित कम्पनियों ने 65 हजार से ज्यादा लोगों की नौकरियाँ ले ली। यह सर्वेक्षण केवल 121 कम्पनियों पर किया गया है। अगर इसको पूरे देश के पैमाने पर देखा जाए, तो कम-से-कम 10 लाख लोगों की नौकरियाँ गई हैं। पूरे देश के अन्दर आर्थिक मंदी के कारण जो नौकरियाँ गई हैं, माननीय मंत्री जी के पास या तो इसका कोई डाटा नहीं है या उन्होंने जान-बूझ कर इस तथ्य को, इस डाटा को छिपाने का काम किया है।

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जो clarifications पूछना चाहता हूँ, उनमें पहला यह है कि मंदी का जो दौर है, यदि यह लम्बा चला, तो भारत सरकार इससे कैसे निबटेगी? मेरा दूसरा clarification यह है कि मंदी से निबटने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं और बेरोजगार हुए लोगों के लिए रोजगार के क्या उपाय किए जाएंगे?

मेरा तीसरा clarification यह है कि आधारभूत ढाँचे की विफलता के अलावा अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी अर्थव्यवस्था के विस्तार में जो गिरावट है, उसको कैसे दुरुस्त किया जाएगा? आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, I wish to seek only two clarifications. One is that the statement that has been given is a bit misleading. You say that you are protecting employees from retrenchment and lay-offs. But what happens to the contract employees? I come from Mumbai and I can tell you, in most of the commercial and industrial establishments, jobs ranging from those of security guards to peons, account keepers and cashiers have been outsourced and they are being done by contract employees. These employees are not covered under your Labour Act. How does the Government protect the interests of these employees?

Secondly, we are talking about recession in India and its impact. But the recession is global, and all the Members here would appreciate the fact that many Indians who had gone to foreign countries for jobs, are loosing their jobs and coming back. So, what guarantee does the Government give for that? These are skilled people; they are highly educated people. They are coming back to India. I think it is our moral responsibility to ensure that the interests of those people are also protected. Does the Government have any instrument by which their rights and their interests are protected?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, the statement of the hon. Minister states that the Government is closely monitoring the situation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not called you.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, nothing is there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your name is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: They have not indicated here as to how they would come out of this situation. What are the specific measures they are going to take in this regard?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On that, let somebody seek the clarification.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, the Government is only monitoring the situation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is this? I have not called you.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, why is this casual attitude of the Government on this issue?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree. But, what can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, this shows the casual attitude of the Government on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, no; please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your Member could have pointed it out. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am unable to understand all this. It was going on smoothly. Members were seeking clarifications on the statement. I have not prevented anybody, who has given his name, from seeking clarifications on the statement. And, suddenly, if you get up and say all this, then, what can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, the statement of the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all right. If there is any serious lacuna in it, you can mention it at the end. Mr. Raja spoke on this issue, and other Members also spoke. Now, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Government has taken it as a challenge to face this unprecedented crisis which has arisen all over the world. So, I congratulate the hon. Minister and the Government for having taken a lot of pains to implement so many measures to overcome the situation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister on this point. The major point is, now, in any corporate body or company, about 25 to 30 per cent labour force is being retrenched or being laid off. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister to take more pains to see that the people who are retrenched — they are about 25 to 30 per cent of the system — should be looked after properly. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I have just sought one clarification from the hon. Minister. Sir, I request you to give me two minutes more to seek clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*... They have taken so much time. I would take only two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You go ahead. I am not saying anything. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I am very much interested in the poor labour who is laid off or retrenched. It comprises of 25 to 30 per cent of the total strength of a company. The Government must take care of these people.

Sir, my second point is this. As per the 42nd Session of the National Labour Conference, the Government has taken so many measures to tackle the situation. It has been mentioned in the statement that the Government has taken a number of steps to tackle it. But, here I would like to say one thing. As far as public investment is concerned, we must concentrate on micro, small and medium scale industries which will give immediate results. Because of this slowdown and crisis, the major industries which are affected are textiles, steel, power, etc. But, you can get immediate results, if you focus on micro, small and medium scale industries. How? This can be done by directing the financial institutions and banks to give priority to these industries. They give loan only to the big people and big enterprises. They don't give loan to micro, small and medium scale industries. So, I request the entire House to fight for the cause of the micro, small and medium scale industries so that they are helped.

1.00 P.M.

Sir, my last point is, the Government is very much committed to solve this problem. They give so many stimuli to encourage exports; they give excise duty exemption, etc. They give many facilities for promotion of exports. Here, I would like to say that stimulus worth more than Rs. 2,00,000 have been given. Now, the Government must focus on the point that whenever a facility is given to an exporter or an enterprise, he must be cautioned that he should not retrench the employees. If he does it and retrenches his employees, then, he should not be eligible for all these facilities. (*Time-bell rings*) Sir, though I am the last speaker, I am given the least time. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, while welcoming the statement given by the hon. Minister, I would like to say that it is not adequate. I would just confine myself to the State from where he also hails, and Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, you are also from the State of Karnataka. Sir, Bangalore is known for the public sector units. More than 50 public sector units are operating in Bangalore, especially the major public sector units like HMT, ITI, BEL, BEML, BHEL, HAL, etc. Sir, Bangalore had almost one lakh labour force just 25 years back, and, now, it has almost come down to 10,000.

I can understand losing of jobs because of recession. But, especially in the Public Sector Undertakings of Karnataka, people are losing jobs right from 1991, after the beginning of liberalisation. Sir, I entirely agree with Mr. Raja; before bailing out any private sector, the Government should come out to bail out these Public Sector Undertakings which are the root cause for development of any private sector in Bangalore, especially the information technology, bio-technology and all.

Sir, it is the wrong policy of the Government, some times, which has made the Public Sector Undertakings lose business or go into the red. For example, Sir, SAIL has got a unit, VISL (Vishweshvarayya Iron and Steel Limited), which is one of the oldest units in Karnataka, had to close because they could not get captive mines whereas the private sector is getting from right, left and centre; they are taking mines. But, the Government sector is not getting mines, and it is a shame. Mr. Jairam Ramesh is also here. The Government should take some steps so that the Public Sector Undertakings get some mines. The other major sectors like the Indian Telephone Industries, which is one of the pioneer institutes, has survived for 60 years; nowhere in the world the telecom industries are making losses, but, unfortunately, the telecommunications industry in India is making losses; it is very unfortunate. It had a workforce of 21,000 employees and it has come down to almost 3,000 now. There was a labour union in ITI, it represented the Central Government to merge ITI into BSNL; it has got huge assets. Almost Rs. 10,000 crores worth assets ITI has.

As far as HMT is concerned, Sir, it has got units all over the country. I feel, Railways should take some of its products through HMT so that they could build rail coaches and the loss-making units can easily make profits.

Sir, the Public Sector has not failed. The people who run the Public Sector Undertakings have made it fail. So, the Government should bail out the Public Sector and steps should be taken for the safety and security of the Public Sector Undertakings. Sir, this is my suggestion.

श्री नंदी येल्लैया (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, आन्ध्र प्रदेश में 20 साल पहले एक Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme थी, क्योंकि वर्कर्स को रिटायरमेंट के बाद अपना मकान खाली करना पड़ता था। उस वक्त मैं Municipal Corporator था। यह आज से 20 साल पहले की बात है। मैं भारत सरकार से, श्रम मंत्री जी से, यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि ...**(व्यवधान)**... सुन लीजिए, सर। आपको तो मालूम ही है कि आज मकान construct करना लगभग impossible है। जमीन भी महँगी है। इसीलिए हम चाहते हैं कि भारत सरकार की ओर से अगर एक Subsidised Housing Scheme बनाकर hire-purchase के आधार पर उनको मकान दिया जाए तो उनके लिए लाभदायक होगा। धन्यवाद।

SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the concerns expressed by other Members. I would like to ask only one question to the hon. Minister. Due to various packages and other things, which the Government has initiated because of a strong political leadership, I would like to know whether it is a fact that Switzerland-based International Institute of Management Development has ranked India at the 13th position while Brazil's is 22, the UK's is 34, Russia's is 34, China's is 18 and the US's is 28. I would like to know whether the schemes would be improved to bring India within the top 10.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, the export industries which have been affected by this, a large number of women have been employed in these industries and they have been very severely impacted and affected. We have got, Sir, so many memoranda from women whose every livelihood has been snatched away and it has been affecting their families also. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister—of course, he has not even mentioned about the workers, leave alone the number of women workers who have been affected—can he give a categorical assurance in this House that as far as the retrenched workers are concerned, the Government will immediately come up with a package of foodgrains, of educational facilities for the children of those living around those export zones who have been severely affected and who are now out of schools.

Thirdly, Sir, will he ensure that these workers are rehabilitated through Government employment schemes?

श्री उपसभापति: एक मिनट से आधा मिनट भी ज्यादा नहीं होना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री गिरीश कुमार सांगी (आंध्र प्रदेश): सर, मैं एक ही मिनट लूँगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सर, Micro, Small and Medium Industries Development के लिए सरकार ने एक फंड बनाया है, एक ट्रस्ट बनाया है, जिसके तहत Nationalized banks द्वारा Micro, Small and Medium Industries को without any collateral लोन दिया जाना चाहिए। एक करोड़ रुपये तक का लोन without any collateral दिया जाना चाहिए। अगर इस स्कीम को ठीक प्रकार से लागू किया गया तो मैं समझता हूँ कि इससे देश में कई नई इंडस्ट्रीज आएंगी और देश में unemployment की जो समस्या है, इससे वह हल हो सकती है।

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (Maharashtra): Thank you, Sir. Whatever I say it arises from the statement of the hon. Minister. The fiscal stimulus etc. that he has referred to, in spite of what my friend, Mr. Sen said, they were good, they will help in creating jobs. But, Sir, now there is nothing, which the Government can do, the Finance Ministry or otherwise, which can create more jobs. What the statement says, Sir, and what I have heard here is to, if at all, prevent losing jobs. 'Strict implementation of labour laws', also the statement says. Prevent this, prevent that, that is good; Sir, but people are losing jobs. Everybody is telling that you said that you have lost ten lakhs jobs. What is happening to your loss? This will go on, Sir, because of your strict labour laws. I know what I am going to say, Sir, is not politically acceptable, but I would say especially about the organised sector. You do something, Mr. Labour Minister, to create jobs and for creating jobs you have to relax some labour legislation and contract labour legislation, then we in the organised sector who give much higher wages ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: It is conflict of interests. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is creating jobs. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Sir, they keep talking and when others say something, they do not like. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*... We have our right to express our views. We in the organised sector...*(Interruptions)*... I am seeking for a clarification, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... Will the Minister look at the possibility of relaxing labour laws?

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: How can he ask that labour laws be scrapped? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: The UPA had hinted in its earlier regime and had a survey...*(Interruptions)*... They are interrupting me. ...*(Interruptions)*... I do not like this, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... My voice is being muffled in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not their majority. ...*(Interruptions)*... Then, why should they muffle all that I have said? ...*(Interruptions)*... I am seeking my clarifications from the hon. Minister whether he will relax some of the labour laws because it will increase employment in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is only internal conflict of interests. Yes, Mr. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बैठिये।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: सर, आज इस सदन में चर्चा के लिए जो Calling Attention आई है, उस पर बहुत से माननीय सदस्यों, खासकर श्री डी. राजा जी, श्री आर.सी. सिंह और श्री एन.के. सिंह ने चर्चा की हैं। इस चर्चा में इस सदन के कम से कम 17-18 माननीय सदस्यों ने भाग लिया है, जिनमें श्रीमती वसन्ती स्टान्ली, डा. वरुण मुखर्जी, श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर, श्रीमती हेमा मालिनी, श्री तपन कुमार सेन जी, डा. के. मलयसामी जी, श्री नन्द किशोर यादव जी, श्री भारतकुमार राऊत जी और डा. टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी जी, शायद वह चले गये ...*(व्यवधान)*... श्री बी.के. हरिप्रसाद जी, श्री नंदी येल्लैया जी, श्री बी.एस. ज्ञानादिशिखन जी, श्रीमती वृंदा कारत जी, श्री गिरीश कुमार सांगी जी और श्री राहुल बजाज जी शामिल हैं। इन माननीय सदस्यों ने इस

कॉलिंग अटेंशन के विषय पर चर्चा की है और अपने विचार इस सदन में रखे हैं। मुझे बहुत कुछ नहीं कहना है, क्योंकि मैंने अपने बहुत से विचार कॉलिंग अटेंशन के नोटिस के उत्तर में दे दिए हैं, फिर भी इस सदन

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (प्रो) पी०जे० कुरियन) पीठासीन हुए]

में श्री डी. राजा जी ने चन्द सवालात् हमारे सामने रखे हैं। लेकिन, उन्होंने जो आंकड़े लेबर ब्यूरो की रिपोर्ट से बताए हैं, वे सारे आंकड़े ठीक नहीं हैं। जो दूसरे सर्वे की रिपोर्ट है, उसमें भी यह बताया गया है कि उसमें इम्प्लूवमेंट है। लेकिन, हमको किसी न किसी आधार पर बात करनी चाहिए, चाहे वह लेबर ब्यूरो के statistics के आधार पर हो, चाहे इंडस्ट्री डिपार्टमेंट के...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI D. RAJA: There is a book supplied to all the Members of Rajya Sabha called 'Global Economic Crisis'. I quoted from page 31. These are your own figures. If you challenge the figures...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: No, I am not challenging. तो किसी न किसी आधार पर ही हम बात करते हैं। जो पहला सर्वे हुआ, अक्टूबर से दिसम्बर तक, तीन महीने का, उसके आधार पर आपने बात की है, चर्चा की है, लेकिन फिर जनवरी से लेकर मार्च तक जो सैकिंड सर्वे की रिपोर्ट आई, उसमें इम्प्लूवमेंट है, अब जो थर्ड सर्वे की रिपोर्ट आई है, उसमें फिर थोड़ी सी कमी है। यानी, इसका मतलब यह है कि कहीं बढ़ रहा है, कहीं घट रहा है और इस महीने में, जुलाई में फिर थोड़ा इम्प्लूवमेंट है। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि employment बढ़ता ही गया, क्योंकि तीन या चार साल पहले जिस तेजी से या परसेंटेज से यह बढ़ा, उस परसेंटेज से नहीं बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन थोड़ी सी इम्प्लूवमेंट दिखाई दे रही है। अब इसको किस तरह से और इम्प्लूव करना है, किस ढंग से employment generation करना है, यह हम सबके सामने एक बहुत बड़ी चिंता का विषय है और इसीलिए सारे माननीय सदस्य बहुत कंसर्न्ड हैं और गवर्नमेंट, खासकर हमारे फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर ने बहुत सी योजनाएं इस वर्ष के बजट में रखी हैं, चाहे वह first stimulative incentive हो, सैकिंड हो या थर्ड हो और recent budget में भी उन्होंने जो बहुत से concessions दिए हैं, ये सारी चीजें उन्होंने employment generation को बढ़ावा देने के लिए की हैं। कई मैम्बर्स यह भी कह सकते हैं कि इससे employer को ही benefit होता है या अभी हमारे ट्रेड यूनियन के नेता ने कहा कि इससे कोई फायदा नहीं है, individual को अगर आप income tax exemption देते हैं तो क्या फायदा है वहां। ठीक है, इन exemptions से अगर किसी की income बढ़ती है तो उसकी purchasing power भी बढ़ती है। जब purchasing power बढ़ती है, तो naturally market में चीजों की demand बढ़ती है, demand बढ़ती है, तो production भी बढ़ता है, ये सारी चीजें आपको मालूम हैं, इसलिए मैं इनके बारे में बताना नहीं चाहता हूं। माननीय सदस्य राजा जी ने जो फिगर्स बताए हैं, उसी आधार पर मैं बोल रहा हूं कि जिस तेजी से employment घट रहा था, वह रुक गया है और जून महीने में इसमें थोड़ी सी और तब्दीली आई है। इसके लिए हम सब लोग कोशिश कर रहे हैं, फाइनेंस डिपार्टमेंट कोशिश कर रहा है, इंडस्ट्री डिपार्टमेंट कोशिश कर रहा है, रूरल डेवलपमेंट डिपार्टमेंट कोशिश कर रहा है। इसीलिए हमने budget allocation में infrastructure, rural development, शहरी योजनाओं, Self Help Groups की मदद करने का प्रावधान रखा है, इसका यही मतलब है कि more and more employment generate हो और लोगों को काम मिले। हो सकता है कि organized sector में हम at a time सबको rehabilitate नहीं कर सकते, लेकिन काफी लोगों को कर सकते हैं। हमारे ट्रेड यूनियन नेता ने यह कहा कि राजीव गांधी श्रमिक कल्याण योजना से कितना लाभ हुआ है? श्री तपन कुमार सेन जी ने यह बात हमारे सामने उठाई थी। मैं आपको आंकड़े देना चाहता हूं। हो सकता है कि ज्यादा लोगों को इसका फायदा न मिला हो, लेकिन यह जो योजना है, यह employees की मदद करने के लिए है और उनकी जो मुश्किलात हैं, उनको दूर करने के लिए हमने यह योजना बनाई है। इसका फायदा हर ट्रेड यूनियन को उठाना चाहिए, हर मजदूर को उठाना चाहिए और हमें इसके बारे में consciousness create करनी चाहिए।

[श्री सभापति पीठासीन हुए]

वर्ष 2005 में इस योजना का लाभ केवल 100 लोगों को मिला और 11 लाख रुपए इस पर खर्च किए गए, 2006 में 885 लोगों को इसका लाभ मिला और 112.890 लाख रुपए इस पर खर्च हुए, 2007 में 748 लोगों को इसका लाभ मिला और 135.58 लाख रुपए इस पर खर्च हुए, 2008 में 419 लोगों को इसका लाभ मिला और इस पर 57.34 लाख रुपए खर्च हुए, मई, 2009 तक 184 लोगों को इसका लाभ मिला और 24.16 लाख रुपए इस पर खर्च हुए। इस तरह कुल मिलाकर इन 5 सालों में अभी तक 2,336 beneficiaries हैं और 3 करोड़, 41 लाख रुपए इस योजना पर खर्च किए गए। यह बहुत बड़ा amount भी नहीं है और जो dimension हम देखते हैं, उसको देखने के बाद, उतने लोगों ने इसका फायदा नहीं उठाया। हमको जरूर यह कोशिश करनी पड़ेगी कि जो एक स्कीम है - राजीव गांधी श्रमिक कल्याण योजना, इसका फायदा सभी कर्मचारियों को उठाना चाहिए और जो Social Security Scheme है, हमें इसका पूरा फायदा लेना चाहिए। इसके साथ ही यह कहा गया है कि 2 फरवरी को यहां पर एक Indian Labor Conference हुई, उसमें जो निर्णय लिए गए, उन निर्णयों को सरकार ने implement नहीं किया या लेबर डिपार्टमेंट ने उसके बारे में ध्यान नहीं दिया। लेकिन मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट ने इसके बारे में सोचकर बहुत से कदम उठाए हैं। उनमें एक short term strategy है और दूसरा long term strategy है। Short Term Strategy में strict implementation of Labour Law क्या होता है? राहुल बजाज जी अभी बोले कि Labour Law को liberalise किया जाए। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि liberalise के बजाए अगर Employer ही थोड़ा सा सोच-समझकर इसके बारे में कोई कदम उठाएंगे, तो इससे हम दोनों की समस्या हल हो जाएगी। आज जो Labour Laws हैं, उनको बहुत से लोग implement नहीं करते हैं। इसी को implement करने के लिए ही एक मशीनरी है। जब हम इसको implement करने जाते हैं तो बहुत से लोगों अर्थात् Employers का यह आरोप है कि अब इंस्पेक्टर राज हो गया है। हर जगह इंस्पेक्टर है। अगर आप सभी लोग सच्चाई जानना चाहते हैं और इस हाउस को Labour Law के बारे में बताना है, तो वह यह है कि Labour Law के पीछे उतना फोर्स नहीं है, जितना फोर्स पुलिस एक्ट में या आई.पी.सी. में या सी.आर.पी.सी. में है। इन सभी में जितना फोर्स होता है, जिसके कारण डर होता है, उतना फोर्स Labour Law में नहीं है। हम जितने भी Labour Law implement करते हैं, वह Labour Department सबको हाथ जोड़कर ही implement करती है। इधर एक तरफ Employer, दूसरी तरफ Employees और तीसरी तरफ गवर्नमेंट है। Tri-Partite को छोड़कर आज तक हमने कोई काम नहीं किया है और आप सबको विश्वास में लेकर ही हम आगे बढ़ते हैं। इसलिए उसको liberalise करना या उसमें छूट देने का सवाल ही नहीं पैदा होता है। हमारे पास जो कानून हैं, अगर हम उन कानूनों को ठीक ढंग से इस्तेमाल करते हैं, तो उसमें लेबर की भी भलाई है और Employers की भी भलाई है। मैं इसमें एक comparative statement देना चाहता हूँ, जो Indian Labour Conference में लिए गए निर्णयों और उन पर हुए एक्शन से संबंधित है। पहला Short Term Strategy में यह है : The quarterly assessment survey, relating to impact on employment on account of slowdown, should be carried out in all the sectors, including unorganised sectors. यह एक निर्णय था। इस पर एक्शन क्या हुआ? इस पर हमने यह एक्शन लिया। The Labour Bureau is carrying out quarterly survey. जिसका अभी राजा जी ने जिक्र किया और दूसरा सर्वे की रिपोर्ट भी आई है, साथ ही थर्ड क्वार्टरली रिपोर्ट भी आई है। The results for survey, made during October-December 2008, indicates loss of jobs; whereas, the second survey, for the period from January to March, 2009, indicates that employment situation has slightly improved. यह एक्शन है। दूसरा है, Strict implementation of labour laws for layout, retrenchment, closure, etc. should be followed. Any change in the working conditions, in those units affected by slowdown, should be decided

through mutual consent between employers and employees. इसका एक्शन हमने इस प्रकार से लिया है। The State Labour Departments were advised to monitor the situation in their respective States to ensure effective implementation of labour laws. The Central Government also takes action whenever specific instances of violation are reported. आप तो जानते हैं कि जहां कहीं भी सौ के ऊपर employees काम करते हैं और अगर वहां retrench होता है या closure होता है, तो वही लोग हमको intimate करते हैं या नोटिस देते हैं कि हम close कर रहे हैं। उसी के बारे में हमको मालूमात होता है। लेकिन दूसरे जो भी less than hundred हैं, तो उनके पूरे मालूमात स्टेट में ही होते हैं, या इसके बारे में ज्यादा information जल्दी नहीं मिलती। वह State के थू ही हमें कलेक्ट करनी पड़ती है और बहुत से States इसके बारे में they do not care, or, they do not intimate the State Governments in time. उससे क्या होता है कि इसमें हमें right statistics या ठीक ढंग से जो statistics मिलना चाहिए, वह नहीं मिलता है और उसमें खामियां होती हैं।

तीसरा, the small and medium traditional export-oriented units should be provided credit at concessional rate of interest by banks and other financial institutions. यह भी यहां पर raise किया गया। तो इसके बारे में तो बजट में 1, 2, 3 और 4 तक जो stimulus packages were declared to assist the export-oriented units by providing liberal credit and rebates in excise, इन सारी चीजों पर इस सदन में चर्चा हुई है और बजट के समय इसके बारे में बहुत से सदस्यों ने अपने विचार रखे हैं। अब मैं long-term strategies की बात करता हूं, जो निर्णय आई.एल.सी. (इंडियन लेबर कॉन्फ्रेंस) में लिया गया है। Investment in infrastructure, power, transport, development of urban and rural houses should be increased. यह सजेशन था, तो इसके बारे में तो अभी बजट में higher allocation हुआ है, housing में higher allocation हुआ है, rural development में higher allocation हुआ है, roads and bridges में higher allocation हुआ है, railways के लिए specially Rs. 15,000 crores दिया गया है, ऐसे infrastructure build up करने के लिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा पैसा सरकार ने इसमें invest किया है। और जो आपके सजेशन्स हैं, हर सजेशन को हमने ध्यान में रखते हुए ही ये योजनाएं बनाई हैं।

एक और बात, more importance to agro-based industries should be given in view of the large population being dependent on agriculture. तो इसके बारे में agro-based industries are being encouraged. Investment in agriculture sector is also increased. आप जानते हैं कि एग्रीकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट को ज्यादा से ज्यादा allocation इस बार दिया गया है। उस वक्त जो निर्णय हमने लिया था 'that more importance should be given to agro-based industries'; तो इसमें उसका care यह ले सकता है।

Lastly, steps should be taken to stimulate the domestic demand so that consumers' spending is encouraged. The stimulus package by the Ministry of Finance provides for changes in direct taxes and relaxation of norms for banks to increase the availability of money. The cut in excise was also meant to increase local demand. तो Indian Labour Conference में जो बहस हुई, जो चर्चा हुई, उसके बारे में गवर्नमेंट ने कोई गौर नहीं किया, कोई विचार नहीं किया यह कहने का, या यह जो allegation है, यह टोटली false है। This is far from truth. Sir, these are the points I have stated before the House and ये चार-पांच steps हमने लिए हैं और जो भी विचार हैं, जो कुछ भी सलाहें हमारे सामने आई हैं, बहुत से मान्यवर नेताओं और मैम्बर्स ने अपने अच्छे सुझाव दिए हैं। जो अच्छे सुझाव हैं, उनको हम definitely examined करेंगे और उनको किस ढंग से, अगर लेबर डिपार्टमेंट उसको नहीं कर सकता, तो किसी और डिपार्टमेंट से इम्प्लिमेंट कराएंगे, क्योंकि बहुत सी चीजें heavy industries, medium and small industries के तहत हैं, तो उनको भी हम सलाह देंगे कि यहां के मैम्बर्स के जो सजेशन्स हैं, उनको जितना हो सके, हम अनुष्ठान में लाने की कोशिश करेंगे।

डेवलपमेंट के बारे में बहुत सी योजनाएं हमारे सामने हैं। मैं उनके बारे में ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता, सभी को इन योजनाओं के बारे में मालूम है - चाहे वह स्वर्ण जयंती शहरी रोजगार योजना हो, चाहे National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme हो - ये सारी योजनाएं लेबर को ज्यादा से ज्यादा employment generate देने के लिए ही बनायी गयी हैं। महोदय, skill development के बारे में माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा। इसके संबंध में आईटीआईज़ को upgrade किया जा रहा है। हम बहुत सी आईटीआईज़ को पब्लिक और प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप में करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। इसके अलावा हम Skill Development Initiative Scheme को भी ला रहे हैं। Nearly, Rs. 500 crores is kept to take up this Skill Upgradation Programme effectively. जहां कहीं भी job losses हो रहे हैं, उनके संबंध में exact figure तो नहीं मिलती, लेकिन हम इस संबंध में कोशिश कर रहे हैं - चाहे BIFR से हो, Heavy Industry से हो या Small Industry हो या labour bureau हो - सारी फ़िगर्स लेकर जितना हो सकेगा, उस संबंध में हम कोशिश करेंगे कि job losses को कम कर सकें। इसके अलावा Social Security for Urban Poor के बारे में एन.के. सिंह जी ने कहा कि जैसे रूरल एरिया में गवर्नमेंट National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme लाई है, उसी ढंग से शहर में भी करना चाहिए। यह जो मुद्दा है, इसके बारे में फाइनेंस डिपार्टमेंट व संबंधित विभाग सोचेंगे क्योंकि यह मामला इतना बड़ा है, क्योंकि financially कितना बोझ वे उठा सकते हैं, इसके बारे में मैं कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ। आपकी जो इच्छा है, आप जो चाहते हैं, लेबर्स के संबंध में हमारी भी वही इच्छा है। खास कर unorganised sectors के लिए भी गवर्नमेंट कोशिश कर रही है, जैसे राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना है, वह टेकअप हो रही है। आज कम से कम 53 लाख स्मार्ट कार्ड्स हैं लेकिन बहुत सी ऐसी स्टेट्स हैं जो उनको ले नहीं रही हैं। They are not owning it and this is a very sad affair. जब तक हर स्टेट इसके बारे में कोशिश नहीं करेगी, हर स्टेट इसका फायदा उठाने की कोशिश नहीं करेगी तो employees को या unorganised workers को इसका फायदा नहीं होगा। एक फैमिली को 30,000 रुपए सालाना अगर मिलता है, उसके स्वास्थ्य के लिए, उसकी हेल्थ की केयर के लिए, तो इसका फायदा उठाना चाहिए। इसके लिए मैं अपील करता हूँ, through the House, that all Members should also take interest in such programmes. जो initiative सरकार ने लिया है, उसका लाभ जरूर हमारे सदस्य उठाएंगे और देश में इसका ज्यादा से ज्यादा प्रचार करेंगे, ऐसी मैं आशा करता हूँ। महोदय, बहुत से सजेशंस आए हैं, समय कम होने की वजह से मैं ज्यादा कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं इतना जरूर कहूंगा कि बाकी सारे सजेशंस, जो माननीय सदस्यों ने दिए हैं, उनको ध्यान में रखते हुए हम अगला कदम उठाएंगे।

श्री तपन कुमार सेन: सर, एक क्लैरिफिकेशन है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No clarifications, please.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri George Fernandes (Bihar)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-six minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty-one minutes past two of the clock,

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) in the Chair.]

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Reply to the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.