

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): I have listened to the hon. Member with the utmost attention.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR): Now, Bill to be introduced; Mr. Viswanatha Menon.

The Pensions (Regulations) Bill, 1974

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON (Kerala): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the grant and regulation of pension, gratuity, dearness and other allowances and benefits, payable by the Central Government to its employees or their dependents, on retirement, voluntary or otherwise, or on the death of the Government servant and for other matters connected therewith.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1970

(Insertion of New Article 16A,--contd.)

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I have listened to the speeches of the hon. Members very carefully and I am grateful to them for the interest they have shown in the unemployment problem. It may not be possible for me to reply to the points raised by all the hon. Members separately. But certainly I will bear in mind to accommodate them in my reply.

The sole objective of the Bill moved by Shri Shyam Lal Yadav is to provide for the right of employment failing which right to unemployment allowance as part of the

Fundamental Rights and thereby to make it justiciable. This is sought to be done by inserting new article 16A in the Constitution, which reads as follows:—

Every citizen above eighteen years of age shall have the right to employment and in the event of his failure to procure any employment, he shall be entitled to an unemployment allowance to be paid by the State at such rate as may be prescribed by the Government concerned from time to time by public notification.

Therefore the issue involved in the proposed Bill relates to right of employment failing which right of unemployment allowance. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the hon. Member has observed that at present the right to an adequate means of livelihood forms part of the Directive Principles of State Policy, but this provision in article 39(a) has neither served any purpose nor has it achieved the desired objective.

Sir, this contention does not appear to be justified, in view of the various efforts made by the Government in the successive Five Year Plans for creation of more and more employment opportunities. Here, I would not like to burden the hon. Members with all those schemes which have been formulated by the Government in all these Plans till date. If they so like, I can enumerate them. For example, in the First Five Year Plan between 1951-56, eleven point programme was put into action, and schemes were:

(1) Adequate assistance to small industries;

(2) Extension facilities for training workers;