

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I hope the hon'ble Minister has seen the Education Commission's Report where they had recommended that the waiting period for one batch of students which has come out, before the other batch comes, should be such that all the people do get employment and the planning of placement should be so arranged that the question of unemployment does not arise. May I know what the Government is doing? The Government had four schemes for giving employment to scientists and engineers. One of them is the 14-point programme for unemployed engineers; the second is provision of Rs. 20 crores in this year's Budget; the third is provision of Rs. 27 crores to the States to which the States also add equivalent amount and then the fourth is the nationalised banks helping unemployed engineers and scientists. And then you said that all M.Sc.s and B.E.s would get employment. May I know what the progress is of these four schemes? Lastly, the survey which you have referred to says, among the total unemployed persons about 58 per cent are males and 42 per cent females. Is it that males are getting more employment than females? What is the position? Could you kindly explain?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It depends upon the total number of ladies who have been educated and on that basis we have to make calculations. As far as various schemes for employment particularly of educated persons are concerned, I am concerned in this Department with the Rs. 20 crores that have been allocated for employment of scientific personnel. Still we do stand by the commitment that particularly the M.Sc.s and above and the graduate engineers would be provided employment before the end of the Fourth Plan period and we are working out various schemes for the purpose of absorbing them. It is not just a question of giving employment. As a matter of fact, it is a question of utilising their talent properly so that they not only get employment, but they produce assets for the community as a whole. And that is why it will take some time to identify the schemes and we are in the process of identifying them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Brahmananda Panda.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : Sir, he stole my question. I have nothing more to ask.

CRISIS IN FANCY LEATHER GOODS

*240. **SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :**
SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA :†

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is crisis in fancy leather goods industry in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Calcutta Fancy Leather Goods Industry depends upon the Supply of HI Tanned Leather, sheep and goat skins from Madras. The supply of these leathers to Calcutta has suffered in recent months because of a spurt in their export, owing to a big demand from overseas buyers. The shortage thus caused has pushed up the prices of these leathers in Calcutta and the user industry has been somewhat adversely affected. Local and other indigenous sources of the raw material are being tapped as alternatives.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : In 1969-70 there was an export of fancy leather goods worth more than a crore of rupees of the Shanti Niketan and other varieties. Now that export has been finished because they could not get the raw material. What is the Government doing about it?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : As far as the export part of the question is concerned, I think the Minister of Foreign Trade will be in a better position to explain that. As far as the availability of raw material is concerned, I have already made it clear in the main reply that alternative arrangements are being made.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : What arrangements have been made so far? More than two years have passed and the industry is suffering.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : Only during the last four or five months this industry has been facing some difficulty regarding

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shyamlal Gupta.

raw materials. We are trying to make raw materials available locally and also to some extent from Madras.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : Are you aware that because of shortage of raw materials there has been further unemployment among the workers who had been engaged in that industry? For that purpose what specific steps are you taking and how far have you succeeded in making raw materials available locally?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : About unemployment and other things, neither the State Government nor the industrialists of West Bengal have drawn our attention to them. But, however, on our own when we came to know about that, we have taken certain steps to make raw materials available to the industry and we hope that within the course of three or four months raw materials will be available.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : In view of the fact that only 20 per cent of the local raw materials are used by Calcutta Leather industries and they have to depend on Madras source, may I know from the Minister what positive measures have been taken to use the local raw materials so that the Calcutta Leather industries have not to depend on Madras?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : As far as we are aware, we have been told by the local users of raw materials that local raw material is not of high quality. This is a suggestion and we will certainly examine how we can improve it.

MANAGERIAL PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR PROJECTS

*241. **SHRI K. C. PANDA :**†

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL :

SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGARLAMUDI :

SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the joint sector envisaged earlier for a greater degree of managerial parti-

cipation by public financial institutions in the case of major projects, has been described by both official and non-official circles as a virtual non-starter; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a news item published in the Economic Times of June 11th with the heading 'Joint Sector a nonstarter—Terms too stiff'. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there was a proposal for starting joint ventures and if so, what stood in the way of implementing that proposal.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : I do not know on what basis this news item has been published in that particular newspaper. The information with me is that this scheme has not failed...

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : There is no question of failure. It has not even started.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : This is not correct.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : You said it has not failed. The question was not about its failure, but about not having started it at all.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD : I am saying that this news item is not correct. On what basis this news item in that particular newspaper has been published, I do not know.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : In view of the take over of ISCO by the Government, did the West Bengal Government recommend conversion of certain private sectors into joint sectors and giving of licences for expanding the production of certain private sector industries and if so what is the reaction of the Central Government to that?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : We would like to get notice for this question.

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. C. Panda.