

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 7th April, 1972/the 18th Chaitra,
1894 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. MR.
CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

- (1) Shri K. B. Chettri (West Bengal).
- (2) Shri Sikander Ali Wajid (Maharashtra).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE COUNTRY

*440. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :†
SHRI K. C. PANDA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that unemployment during 1971 has shown considerable increase as compared to the unemployment percentage during 1970 ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the crash programme to create more job opportunities has been able to solve the unemployment problem in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) :

(a) and (b) As such, no estimates of unemployment in the country are available. The number of work-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges (all of whom are not necessarily unemployed) increased by 25.3 percent during 1971 as against 18.8% in 1970 as per statement (No. 1) laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix LXXIX, Annexure No. 1]

According to an assessment made in respect of the crash scheme for Rural Employment, the estimated employment generated was about 344.09 lakh man-days as per statement (No. 2) laid on the Table on the House. [See Appendix LXXIX, Annexure No. 1]

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, according to the statement placed by the hon. Minister,

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. K. Mohta.

unemployment has increased by 25.3% in neo year which shows that the situation is really alarming. May I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken into consideration the fact that the subsidy that they are giving for industrialisation in backward areas, which is just a name for pockets of more unemployed people, is related to the capital expenditure but not to jobs created, with the result that the accent is more on capital-intensive schemes whereas the real accent should have been on labour-intensive schemes ? I want to know whether this fact has been taken into consideration and also whether, in view of this, there will be any change in the encouragement given by the Government in regard to the schemes for such areas.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : Sir, about the question of subsidy whether it generates employment or not, I am not in a position to reply. But, certainly there is a suggestion that this subsidy should be advanced on the condition that labour-intensive schemes only will be entitled to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Any other question, Mr. Mohta ?

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, my second question is this : The figures from the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges suggest that there has been no improvement in the situation of the educated unemployed. Now, the educated unemployed can best be utilised for the spread of education in the country and teaching jobs would be more suitable to them. At the same time, the spread of education has not proceeded with the speed that we desired. So in the crash programme or in any other programme under the Government of India is there any particular provision for increasing educational opportunities to absorb these educated unemployed ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : While we discuss employment, we must bear in mind that in the nature of our socio-economic situation precise estimates are not always available and the figures on the live registers are not clearly indicative of the quantum of the unemployed, in the sense that there are a number of people, who are in employment, but the registers show their names to get better employment. That factor should be kept in mind.

So far as the programme for educated unemployed is concerned, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the schemes in the Fourth Five Year Plan. There is 'Expansion and Improvement in Quality of Primary Education'. There is a provision for 30,000 teachers and 240 Assistant Inspectors under that scheme. So what the hon. Member has suggested that we could better utilize them for teaching purposes, has been taken note of. There is provision for about 5,600 persons each year, comprising 1,100 engineering graduates, 550 agricultural graduates, 60 engineering officers, 93 soil conservation and agricultural officers, 25 statisticians, 710 scientists, technicians, and drawing staff, 335 ministerial and other staff, in all, *plus* labourers, 2,750 in all. This is another scheme of conservation and rural roads. There is another scheme under Petroleum. By 1973-74, the number of persons who will get self-employment benefits will be about 900 per year, apart from another 1,000 skilled and semi-skilled persons.

If you permit me, I will give you an extract of it and lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You place it on the Table of the House. Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware that the basic problem is not the increase in unemployment, etc., but the basic problem is industrial licensing policy and the investment made in industries during the last three Plans? The Labour Ministry is actually a ledger keeper in this scheme because they have no say in that policy. But at least the Labour Minister will agree that in all these programmes, crash programme or rural programmes or in the new slogan that has been given by the Planning Commission, the educated unemployed should get massive assistance for starting enterprises. Have they got any relevant particulars of a scheme which has got a possibility of commercial success?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : You will realise, Sir, that it is difficult for me to say whether licences for industry should be issued on the basis of certain employment potential. If this criterion should be applied or not or if this criterion is being applied, I am not in a position to say just now. It is a suggestion. That's all.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : What about the educated unemployment slogan announced

by Mr. Subramaniam? What have you to say on this?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : As I have said, the Fourth Five Year Plan is placed on the Table of the House. Certain schemes are there. I have given some details. There are several other details and I draw the hon. Member's attention to those schemes.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has analysed the reason why the working classes are keeping silent in this country although the unemployment figures increased by 25 per cent over the last one year? In other countries if there is an increase of even one point there is a revolution and the Government which is in power is pulled down to pieces. Why has not that happened in this country?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why there is no revolution in the country...

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : His last observation is not correct. Even in an affluent society like the American society, as the hon. Member perhaps knows, there is 6 per cent unemployment just now. Therefore, the question of a revolution and the working classes playing a role if unemployment increases is not a logical deduction from this proposition.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Sooner or later there will be a revolution in this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is no question, whether there is a revolution or not.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, I agree with the hon. Minister that these figures are not quite complete or reliable, but even as they are, they are quite baffling. So I would like to ask the hon. Minister if he has noticed that while the rate of unemployment in certain States has risen—three times in Bihar and four times in Maharashtra—in certain other States the increase is only 1.6. For example, in Himachal Pradesh, from 12.9 the figure has come to 2.9 and in Rajasthan it has come to 9.2 from 54.9. Sir, would he consider the proposal of appointing some people—some experts or some committee—to go into these figures and analyse whether this whimsical behaviour of the unemployment registration figures has any explanation or not? If there is no explanation then certainly we would lose

our faith in the employment registration figures.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I would like, for the benefit of the hon. Member, to quote from Prof. Dantwala Committee's Report—one small portion :

“The character of our economy and consequently, that of the labour force, employment and unemployment is too heterogeneous to justify aggregation into single dimensional magnitudes.”

And from the figures he has quoted it is very clear now that with the spread of education there is a certain amount of growing consciousness among those who are not getting gainful employment to get themselves registered. That is one part.

But, as you have suggested, we are carrying a sample survey to exactly locate and find out the reasons why in a particular area the figures have gone up while they have not gone up in certain other areas. There is a possibility that quite often in a joint Hindu family if somebody is unemployed he does not necessarily register himself. The character of the socio-economic situation is also responsible for the figures—those who have offered themselves for registration and those who have not.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, my question has not been answered. The socio-economic situation in the State of Rajasthan has not changed over the year nor has it changed in Gujarat nor in Maharashtra. While the increase is three or four times in some areas, it is only $\frac{1}{4}$ th or $\frac{1}{6}$ th in some other areas. And the sample survey will not bring out more than what the register says. Would he appoint an expert committee to analyse whether the system of registration itself is defective?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : As I have said, spread of education and growth of population also are the other factors. But I would not just now say, off hand, whether another expert committee would be appointed because already there are several committees and the Planning Commission has also got a Working Group, and they are studying all these aspects of the unemployment problem. I do not think addition of a Committee will throw more light on the problem.

SHRI M. ANANDAM : I find that the Expert Committee on Unemployment has sub-

mitted an interim report on this question of unemployment. May I know whether they have examined the report and, if so, what is the action they are going to take in respect of this particular report?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : The report is being examined and the Working Group in the Planning Commission is taking into consideration all the suggestions and is finding out a way of implementing it.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : The duty of the Government is not over by giving figures for job-seekers on the registers. The same register must bear the number of persons who are given employment in the year 1970-71. The figures for only the job-seekers are given here. For example, for Tamil Nadu in 1970, 4,00,276 job-seekers are there and for 1971, 4,59,654 and the percentage of increase is given as 13.6 and 14.8 respectively. I would like to know whether any of the persons were given employment from the job-seekers who are found in the register for the year 1970-71. What is the percentage of persons given employment in those years?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I have not the figures regarding how many have been given employment. What is the present state of affairs so far as the live register is concerned has been reflected in these figures.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : May I know if the register has a column for the number to be quoted for persons who have been given employment?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I have the figure but I do not know if it is correct. Only the man-days is mentioned, not in persons. It is 50.43 lakh man days in Tamil Nadu but this is not correctly reflecting the position.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : May I know if the Government is aware that the sharpest decline in employment has taken place in the private sector particularly in jute, engineering, textile and coalmines by mass scale lay-off, closure and retrenchment and in the petroleum concerns, through computerisation which has led to the decline of workers from 20,000 to 8,000 to-day and the most affected area is Calcutta. What steps do the Government propose to take to stop this mass scale retrenchment, lay-off and closure which is contributing to increasing unemployment every year?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I cannot vouchsafe whether the statement of the Member regarding the decline in employment in the particular areas like engineering and coal mines. So far as computerisation is concerned, at a certain stage of development it becomes inevitable and it helps the process of industry or a concern. Whether it has resulted in throwing out so many thousands of workers I will have to find out.

श्री गनेशी लाल चौधरी : श्रीमन्, बेरोजगारी की भयंकरता को बढ़ते हुए देखकर क्या माननीय मन्त्री अनएम्प्लायमेंट इन्श्योरेंस पालिसी लाने की कृपा करेंगे ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : It is not feasible at the present juncture, at this stage of our economy.

SHRI M. R. VYAS : The hon. Minister said that these figures do not reflect the true position of the real increase or decrease in unemployment. Would the hon. Minister be able to say what in his opinion is the true position of unemployment, whether it has increased to the extent shown in these figures or whether it has increased to a much greater degree. And secondly . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No second question.

SHRI M. R. VYAS : It is in connection with the same, Sir. It is part of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right ; if it is part of it you put it.

SHRI M. R. VYAS : May I also know whether these figures reflect the unemployment position in the non-educated sector, that is, the labour sector and also those people who do not register with the Employment Exchanges ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : Regarding the first question, as I said earlier, what is reflected here in the register is not hundred per cent reflection of the position. It gives a broad outline and gives some indication that unemployment is here. And from an analysis of these figures I can say that it is on the increase ; that much I can say.

So far as rural unemployment is concerned I am not certain whether some of them get themselves registered.

SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN : May I know if the hon. Minister is aware of that fact that the increase in unemployment in Tamil Nadu is due to the tightened industrial policy of the Central Government and its refusal to easily grant licences for starting new industries in Tamil Nadu ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : That is not correct ; Tamil Nadu has a broad industrial base already.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister if he is aware of and if he will accept the fact that a large number of people, honest people, have not dared to go to the Employment Exchanges to register themselves and will the hon. Minister kindly tell the House the percentage of such people who would not like to go there on account of the ill-treatment meted out to them by the people in the Exchanges ? Will he also say whether he is aware of the fact that there is corruption even in the offices of the Employment Exchange and whether it is really a fact that the Tamil Nadu Government is not getting its due place in the matter of development of industries and that the hon. Minister's statement that it is not a fact is not correct ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : Sir, these are all wild allegations. If hon. Members were to point out specific instances we shall certainly investigate. Regarding Tamil Nadu again and again it is no use repeating it ; I said Tamil Nadu has got a broad base and they are getting enough licences also.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : It appears from the second part of the statement submitted by the hon. Minister that the crash programme for rural employment has failed to achieve the desired result. In view of that may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government's attention has been drawn to paragraph 12 of the Interim Report of the Bhagawati Committee in which it has been stated that because of the flat rate allocation of Rs. 12.5 lakhs to each district for crash programme irrespective of population, agricultural development etc., the crash programme has failed to produce the desired results ? If so, what are the steps which the Government is going to take to rectify this defect ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : So far as the crash programme is concerned there was a provision of Rs. 50 crores for 1971-72. The amount released up to 31st March 1972 was Rs. 34 crores and the amount spent as per reports is Rs. 13.35 crores only. The schemes under the crash programme are minor irrigation, rural electrification, construction of roads, inland water transport and . . .

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : I did not ask for these things at all. I asked whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the observations of the Bhagawati Committee and what they are going to do to rectify the defects. That was my question.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : That defect pointed out by the Bhagawati Committee is under examination of the Planning Commission Working Group. I have already said that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

*441. [The questioners (Sarashri K. G. Panda, M. K. Mhta and Dahyabhai V. Patel) were absent for answer, vide col. 24 infra].

SHRI KALYAN ROY : All suddenly disappeared.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What have you got to do ?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : All Swatantra Party Members, and they have disappeared.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are wasting the Question Hour. Please sit down. Next Question.

: SEVENTH FLEET IN THE BAY OF BENGAL

*442. **SHRI S. KUMARAN :**
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA . †
SHRI KALYAN ROY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ships of the U. S. Seventh Fleet had entered the Bay of Bengal during the recent Indo-Pak military conflict ;

(b) If so, what was the purpose of their entry into the Bay of Bengal ;

(c) how long they remained there ?

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The U. S. Government has stated that the purpose of the entry of the of task force of the Seventh Fleet into the Bay of Bengal lay in the possible evacuation U.S. citizens from Dacca. Since the Government of India had given every facility for the evacuation of foreign nationals from Bangla Desh at that time, it is possible that the U.S. Government had other motives in mind. The Government of India considered this action of the U.S. Government as unfriendly and dangerous and expressed our concern and views to the U.S. Government.

(c) The task force remained in the Indian Ocean from December 15 to January 10.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, a very very diplomatic answer. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the disclosures made by columnist Jack Anderson that the Task Force of the US Seventh Fleet was sent to the Bay of Bengal while preparations were going on even to sanction a nuclear war in order to help the Yahya Khan regime to suppress Bangla Desh liberation and also intimidate India ? May I know, Sir, whether, in view of the serious disclosures by Mr. Jack Anderson about the intentions of the movement of the US Seventh Fleet to the Bay of Bengal, Government consider it almost a co-belligerent act on the side of Yahya Khan regime and in view of that, what action Government have taken at the diplomatic and political level in regard to this matter as far as the American Government is concerned ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I have not finished my questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no ; only one question. I would call you again for another question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : There cannot be a necklace with only one stud.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call you again.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Of course you will do. So, let him say now about the Jack Anderson part of it.