

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 24th July, 1968/2«rf Sravana,
1890 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question 61.

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY i Sir. . .

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY 1 Why
is the Home Minister replying to it? The
question is addressed to the Education
Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN i The Home Minister
has taken up the responsibility of answering it.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG ENGINEERS

*61. SHRI M. V. BHADRAMt 1

SHRI CHITTA BASU i

SHRI R. P. KHAITAN i

SHRI RAM SAHAI i

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be
pleased to state i

(a) what steps have been taken to solve the
problem of large scale unemployment amongst
engineers in the country; and

(b) whether as a result of these steps, there
has been any improvement in the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S.
RAMASWAMY) i (a) In May, 1968, certain
measures recommended by the Planning
Commission for the creation of employment
opportunities for engineers were approved
generally by the Government. A statement
listing the measures approved is placed on the
table of the House. The Central Ministries
have been asked to initiate action in con-
sultation, where necessary, with the Ministry of
Finance. The State Governments have also
been requested to consider implementing these
measures to the extent possible.

(b) Central Ministries have been requested
to prepare quarterly reports on the progress
made. It is too early at this stage to assess the
results of the action taken.

†The question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shri M. V. Bhadram.
1—11 R.S./68

STATEMENT

The following measures for the creation of
employment opportunities for employees were
recommended by the Planning Commission and
have been approved of generally, by the
Government i

(1) State Governments and the Central
Ministries may take up preparatory work in
connection with projects to be included in the
Fourth and subsequent plans to the extent
resources are available or can be provided. It
may be decided and made known that only
fully investigated projects will be included in
the Fourth Plan.

(2) The preparation of technical reports for
selected completed major projects may be
taken up under the supervision of senior
engineers.

(3) The training-in-industry programme of
the Ministry of Education may be expanded as
soon as may be possible to cover 5,000 trainees
per annum. The suggestion of the Ministry of
Labour and Employment that the Apprentices
Act may be modified to cover engineering
graduates and diploma holders may also be
examined further in consultation with the
Ministry of Education.

(4) Arrangements may be made for the
training of 1,500 graduates and diploma holders
for the operation and maintenance of thermal
stations.

(5) Vacant posts may be filled rapidly,
recruitment procedure and prescribed
qualifications being modified wherever possible.
The general ban on the filling of vacant
technical posts may be lifted.

(6) An early decision may be taken on the
introduction of a short service technical
commission for the Army Technical Corps.

(7) The development of Indian Consultancy
Organisations may be encouraged. Wherever
possible and desirable, and having due regard
to the present capacity and competence of
existing consultancy organisations, certificates
of technical soundness and feasibility from an
Indian Consultancy Organisation or a
Government organisation with the necessary
expertise may be insisted upon in the case of
major plan projects, foreign collaboration
projects and projects for which financial
assistance is sought from financial organisations
set up by the Government.

(8) A special scheme may be drawn
up for financial assistance to engineers
for the setting up of small scale industries.

The existing State Bank Scheme may be re-examined in the light of the response so far evoked.

(9) The contractual provision requiring approved contractors to employ qualified engineers may be enforced.

(10) Engineers may be encouraged to set up cooperatives for undertaking construction work or for setting up repair and servicing facilities for agricultural machinery in rural areas.

(11) Avenues may be explored for the employment of engineers in marketing sales and management posts in public undertakings.

(12) A multi-speciality approach may be adopted to scientific research and development.

(13) Special efforts may be made through our Missions abroad to send out technical experts to friendly developing countries to assist in their development programmes.

(14) The suggestion of the Ministry of Labour and Employment that factories employing more than a particular number of workers and using power be obliged to employ a qualified engineer may be examined further in consultation with the Ministry of Industrial Development and Company Affairs.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM i What is the total number of people who have been provided employment due to the measures that have been undertaken by the Government ?

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY i It is too early to assess that. We have asked the State Governments to send their reports by August 15. They have to prepare their schemes, taking into consideration the projects they are going to implement, and then take on these engineers. It will take some time. We cannot give figures for all the 15 States at present, but Assam has given some information. Assam can employ in their electricity board about 27 graduate engineers and 12 diploma-holders. Also, they may be able to absorb some people in Assam Cements Limited, Assam Gas Limited and Assam Construction Corporation Limited.

SHRI A. D. MANI i May I know, Sir. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN i There are four names. First I am going to give an opportunity to these four names and then

I shall consider to whom I should give an opportunity. Hereafter you take it that if I simply nod like that, do not take that a promise has been given to the Member that he will be given an opportunity. I want to make it quite clear. If I nod to a certain Member like that, he thinks that I have given a guarantee that he will get an opportunity. Hereafter do not take any notice of it. Only to preserve order I do that.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM i From the statement it is seen that fourteen items of work have been proposed. It seems no immediate results can be expected at all. In this connection, item No. 9 says i

"The contractual provision requiring approved contractors to employ qualified engineers may be enforced."

Will the Government take steps to enforce it immediately, so that to some extent engineers get employment? Secondly, item 10 says that engineers may be encouraged to set up cooperatives. Can the Government give an assurance that in all the public sector undertakings contracts will be given only to the cooperatives formed by the engineers?

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY i With regard to the first question, the State Governments and the Departments concerned can take action only where it is possible. In respect of certain contracts it can be done while they enter into contracts. Where they have already entered into contracts, they have to go by their terms. I do not know how far they have succeeded in this. Regarding giving of work to co-operatives of engineers, they will be given, I think, some preference as is being done in all the departments with regard to co-operatives. That is the policy of the Government and I hope that it will be followed

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM i The answer is misleading. There are a number of contractors with the Government as well as with the public sector undertakings. What is the difficulty for the Government to enforce the clause in order to employ engineers?

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY i I do not know whether they have enforced it. The Ministries are doing that. We do not have any information. As I said earlier, we will get the information only by August 15.

SHRI CHITTA BASU i It appears that the Government of India and the

Planning Commission undertook some examination of the programme itself and on the basis of it certain recommendations have been made which are in the statement. In this context may I know from the hon. Minister whether any study has been made, so far, by the Government of India or the Planning Commission in order to ascertain to what extent the problem of unemployment among engineers has been created due to the existing policy of foreign collaboration and importing technical know-how from other countries? If there has been no study undertaken so far, why has not the Government taken up such a study and will the Government take up such a study in future?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The Planning Commission made a very extensive study of this problem and they had also considered this matter, which the hon. Member has referred to. They have given their suggestions to us and based on them we made our recommendations to the various Ministries of the Central Government as well as the State Governments. As my colleague stated, the results have yet to come. As soon as they come, we shall assess the results and then determine what further action has to be taken. We inform the Union Cabinet every three months about the progress in this matter and the Cabinet reviews it every three months. This will indicate to hon. Members the seriousness we attach to this problem.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, My question has not been answered. My question was, whether a particular study has been made with regard to foreign collaboration itself.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I have said that this was also taken into consideration by the Planning Commission and they have given their views to us on the whole question.

श्री आर० पी० खैतान : स्टेटमेन्ट में मंत्री जी ने बतलाया है कि :

"Special efforts may be made through our Missions abroad to send out technical experts to friendly developing countries to assist in their development programmes."

तो मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि किस तरह के लोगों को वहाँ पर भेजना चाहते हैं, और वहाँ से क्या क्या मांगे आई हैं और कितने आदमी अभी तक भेज चुके हैं ?

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : जिस तरह की मांगें, जिस तरह के इंजीनियरों के लिये दूसरे देशों से आती हैं उसी हिसाब से हम इंजीनियर भेजते हैं। काफी इंजीनियर भेजे गये हैं, उनकी संख्या मेरे पास नहीं है। यदि माननीय सदस्य चाहेंगे तो मैं संख्या भी दे दूंगा।

श्री राम सहाय : माननीय मंत्री महोदय से मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि स्टेटमेन्ट में जो बातें लिखी हैं क्या उनके खयाल के मुताबिक वह इस बात के लिये पर्याप्त हैं कि जितने स्टूडेंट इंजीनियर्स निकलेंगे वह सब एब्जर्व कर लिये जायेंगे ? अगर आपका ऐसा खयाल है तो फिर आपने जो उनको भर्ती करने में कमी कर दी है, कहीं कहीं 50 प्रति शत कमी कर दी है, उसको कम करने का क्या कारण है। दूसरी भेरी अर्ज है कि ठेकेदारों के पास जिनके पास बड़े बड़े ठेके हैं उनके बारे में आपने अपने जवाब में लिखा है, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप कोई ऐसा नियम बना रहे हैं जिससे बड़े बड़े ठेकेदारों को इस बात के लिये पाबंद कर दिया जाय कि वह डिप्लोमा होल्डर्स या डिग्रीहोल्डर्स को अपने यहां लाजमी तरीके पर रखें।

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : जहां तक सब इंजीनियर्स को नौकरी देने का सवाल है यह उम्मीद नहीं की जा सकती है कि उनको एकदम से नौकरियां मिल जायेंगी पर उनको नौकरियां पाने में सुविधा होगी। कितनी सुविधा उनको इससे मिल सकी है या नहीं मिल सकी है वह तब पता लगेगा जब विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से, विभागों से या राज्य सरकारों से हमें इस बात की सूचना प्राप्त हो जाती है। जहां तक बड़े बड़े ठेकेदारों और उनकी कंपनियों का सवाल है, वह इंजीनियरों को रखते हैं। जहां तक मैं जानता हूँ वह बहुत से बड़े बड़े कान्ट्रैक्टर्स इंजीनियर्स को रखे हुए हैं। सवाल ऐसे कान्ट्रैक्टर्स का है जो कि आज इंजीनियर्स को रखते नहीं हैं, केवल अपने हिसाब से अपने अनुभव से कान्ट्रैक्टर्स का काम करते हैं। ऐसे लोगों के लिये हमने राज्य सरकारों से और जो हमारे भारत सरकार के विभिन्न विभाग या मंत्रालय हैं, जो इंजीनियर्स से संबंध रखते हैं उनको यह सिफारिश

की है कि वह देखें कि किस तरह से यह काम कर सकता है, कानूनी प्रावधान क्या करना चाहिये। वह देख कर इस बात को करेंगे, इस बात की पूरी उम्मीद है।

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGO-PALAN) I Just now the hon. Deputy Minister said that it is too early to make an assessment of the problem of unemployed engineers. According to the C.S.I.R. study in April, it reveals that about 37,500 engineers are jobless and the number of mechanical and electrical engineers is greater than that of the civil engineers and as the present pattern of utilisation of engineers cannot ensure full employment, for the annual rate of growth of the national economy is much lower than that the growth of the engineering staff, may I know from the Minister what steps they are going to take to rehabilitate all these engineers, whether they are going to be absorbed in different public sector undertakings or private sector undertakings, and how long it will take to employ all these engineers?

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY i The hon. lady Member has misunderstood my answer, when I answered with regard to a different question the assessment regarding the employment rate secured by these measures. Regarding the other question, the Planning Commission has studied the problem, and it has given these measures for giving employment to these engineers. We know the number of people unemployed and we know the programme for the next five or ten years. All the measures are formulated on this basis. When these measures are implemented, I am sure more and more young graduates will be employed.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD : May I know the number of persons who generally qualify themselves in Engineering every year, and in the interests of the country may I know whether Government would be prepared to reduce the number of such colleges instead of increasing it every year and creating unemployment?

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY i This is also being done. The Education Ministry has instructed the States to reduce the intake of Students in the Engineering Colleges, and because of this, this year the reduction is to be very considerable. It will be approximately about 18,500 graduates and 40,000 diploma-holders as against 24,000 engineers and 48,000 diploma-holders in 1967. So there is considerable reduction in the intake. I

MR. CHAIRMAN i I shall do sufficient justice in this matter. The whole country is looking into it.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE i The hon. Minister has laid on the Table of the House a statement which is meant to give an idea as to how employment opportunities for engineers will be increased. But looking at item No. 1 of the measures, will the hon. Minister say whether this is really a measure for increasing the employment opportunities or reduction of employment opportunities, because this only shows that only those projects will be included in the Fourth Plan which are fully investigated? Will the Minister see that this really has nothing to do with the increase of employment opportunities but rather with reduction of the number of projects to be placed in the Fourth Plan? It will really amount to reduction of opportunities for engineers. Will he kindly explain this?

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY i This measure is framed just to give immediate employment to the engineers. Preparatory work in connection with the projects to be included in the Fourth or subsequent Plan is to be taken up now. Preparatory work is to be taken up immediately. That is why it has been included. Instead of postponing they should start the work and employ engineers.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT i The statement by Government and the fourteen points given by the Home Minister and the Education Minister earlier cover all possible ideas that can possibly be conceived. (Interruption). My only objection to this is this, that again we have tried to solve this problem on a short-term basis. In 1963 when the Chinese aggression was there, we immediately increased the number of seats. Now that there is unemployment we have decreased it. Have we thought of a national plan for using this technical manpower in this country at present and in the future? Have we taken all these things into account and are we going to do something about it so that after six years, when 50 per cent is reduced and people come to the market and lot of jobs are vacant—I want to know a specific answer from the Government for this. Have they ever thought of a national plan for this purpose? If not, why not? If so, will they do it now?

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY i We have got a definite plan, and the Man-Power Directorate has taken all the steps

with regard to the requirement of manpower.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I want a specific answer. What he is telling we already know.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : The hon. Member has raised an issue of great importance. He asked, have we thought about employment for engineers on a national basis, on a long-term basis. I can point out to him that such a planning of one particular sector depends upon the general planning for the country as such, because the possibilities of employment depend upon the investment programme and further development of industries, etc. So I can say that one cannot plan for one particular sector of employment on a long-term basis. The whole thing depends upon a national plan. I think we have something like a national plan though it is facing some difficulty at the present moment. The present problem of unemployment of engineers also is a reflection of that general problem. To that extent I can say that we have thought about it. To that extent I can say that there are certain difficulties also.

{Several hon. Members stood up}

MR. CHAIRMAN : -Hereafter if twenty Members stand, I shall keep quiet.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The hon. Minister said he has something like a national plan. May I know which part of it is plan and which part of it is national ? Secondly, in view of the fact that the problem is mounting, in fact it is mounting from year to year, and that there is no sign of any relief or remedy, has the Government considered the advisability of discussing the matter with the public sector and similar other undertakings and also with the private sector with a view to making compulsory arrangement for appointment of such people who are unemployed and whose talent is being wasted when they should be harnessed to national purposes?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, as the Home Minister indicated, there is a plan which is part of the Fourth Five Year Plan. As far as the employment opportunities are concerned, if I have understood the hon. Member's question correctly, the statement that has been laid on the Table of the House indicates the lines on which action has to be taken by various Ministries and Departments of Government and by the

State administrations. As has been indicated by the Deputy Minister, it is going to take some time before we are able to assess whether this line of action which we have formulated in consultation with the Planning Commission has produced results that we have been looking for. If not, then we shall again see what further measures have to be taken to solve this problem properly.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know if the Government is aware of the fact that while there is unemployment amongst the degree holders and the diploma-holders amongst the engineers, there is in the country a great dearth of engineers with higher qualifications, and if the Government is aware of this fact, may I know if the Government has plans to provide greater opportunities of postgraduate education to engineers by providing more scholarships and more stipends and thus creating a cadre of engineers who are really needed?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : My information is that there is no reduction in the post-graduate education.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : No, no. There is no reduction. Sir, I seek your protection. Either the Home Minister has not understood my question or...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order, Sir. Can anybody be protected from the Home Minister?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : He has either not understood my question or, being a clever politician, he has evaded it.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : No, no.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : My question is whether in view of the admitted dearth of engineers with higher qualifications the Government has decided to provide more opportunities of post-graduate education for engineers and for that purpose would provide them with handsome scholarships.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I can say that I did not try to evade the answer but I thought that I should tell him that this first promise is not acceptable to me immediately unless I verify whether there is a dearth of highly qualified engineers. That itself is a basic point. And therefore I said, there is no question of any reduction of programme in that matter. But I am sure the Education Minister will certainly take note of what the hon. member has said.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have taken 25 minutes. I have finished 15 speakers. This is an important question. Therefore I give a half-an-hour discussion on this.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Half an hour is no good. You have been good enough; I have no complaint. You have been very generous in this matter. But half an hour only is

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI (Rajasthan) : Two hours.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I say, two hours. It is of national importance, and the reply has to be given. Sir, I need not dilate upon it. You understand the problem 100 per cent better than I do. Therefore I request you to provide at least two hours so that different shades of opinion and viewpoints may be expressed. Half-an-hour discussion is nothing. One member will speak from this side and another , . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You leave it to me.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I entirely leave it to you.

TOURIST TRAFFIC

♦62. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourists who visited India in the years 1966-67 and 1967-68 and the amount of foreign exchange earned as a result thereof ;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to tap the tourist trade with more attractive schemes, if so, the nature of those schemes; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange collected through the hotel industry on account of tourist traffic during the years 1966-67 and 1967-68?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRIMATI JA-HANARA JAIPAL SINGH) : (a) The number of tourists who visited India in the year 1966 was 1,59,603 and in 1967 1,79,565. According to an assessment made by the Department of Tourism on the basis of sample survey, the earning in the year 1966 was Rs. 22.61 crores and in 1967 Rs. 25.23 crores.

(b) The strengthening of the tourism infrastructure ; which includes the development of special areas of Tourist interest on an integrated basis provision of more hotels, better travelling facilities by air and by road, are being taken up. Suitable schemes for these purposes are proposed to be included in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

(c) The figures are not available.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, the usual stock argument is given that more areas are developed, etc. But is the Government aware that we are very static in developing tourism? And in a recent survey made by the Pacific Travel Association we have got a coveted place of last but one when 26 countries were examined. In view of this, may I know whether the Government has got any positive schemes for attracting tourists? When we see that eleven billion dollars are spent by the foreign tourists, the whole world over we have got only 0.5 per cent share out of the tourist trade. In this connection, may I request the Government whether it is possible to develop more attractive schemes whereby the foreign tourists will be attracted just like providing better inter-travel conditions, very good, sumptuous and delicious food in hotels—that is most important—and of better hotels? In this connection, may I also know whether the Government and the Minister of Tourism have ever thought that it is a very good Export Promotion Scheme because we can sell handicrafts to the tourists? What are the positive steps being taken?

DR. KARAN SINGH : The Government is not only aware but painfully aware of the fact that the tourist infrastructure in this country or tourist facilities are most inadequate, and therefore special attempts are being made to strengthen the infra-structure. The hon. Member has very rightly referred to the PATA survey which points out our considerable weaknesses in this field. I can assure your, Sir, and through you this honourable House that we are fully aware of our inadequacies and in fact, what we have to do is trying to develop a coordinated pattern for the strengthening of the tourism infra-structure in all its aspects during the Fourth Plan period. I do not know, Sir, whether you want me at this stage to go into details of all the various things that we are doing. But broadly speaking, airports, hotels and the transport facilities we are developing and