

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SASMIT PATRA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Dorjee Tshering Lepcha: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Chunnilal Garasiya (Rajasthan) and Shri Devendra Pratap Singh (Chhattisgarh).

Concern over Mismatched Skill Development

SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA (National Capital Territory of Delhi): Sir, India's growing population, particularly the rising working age segment, people in the age bracket of 15-59, which stood at 55.4 per cent in 1991 and projected to reach 65 per cent in the next Census, is proving to be an asset. But the attempt to leverage this demographic advantage is yet to succeed, as the youth are underprepared for industry demands. The employment rate has dipped to 46.8 per cent in second quarter of 2024, indicating a declining job market. While the Government claims India's low corporate tax rate (22 per cent) as a growth driver, this has not translated into job security, as companies continue laying off staff to prioritize profits, leveraging tax savings without accountability for hiring or job creation. Though some schemes like *Skill India*, *Make in India*, *Vocal for Local* have made some impact, yet it needs further acceleration. The skill development initiatives rolled out by the Government need to be reviewed as studies show that 33 per cent of India's educated youth remain unemployed due to mismatched skills. The current educational curriculum is outdated, and it needs comprehensive national strategy to align it with the evolving demands of industries like technology, green energy and manufacturing. The Government policies should bridge the gap of expected skill-set between the job-givers and the job-seekers. I urge the Government to look into it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SASMIT PATRA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Narain Dass Gupta: Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu) and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).

Issue of mismanagement during Manimahesh Yatra in Himachal Pradesh

डा. सिकंदर कुमार (हिमाचल प्रदेश): महोदय, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद कि आपने मुझे एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर बोलने का अवसर दिया है।