

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Friday, March 20, 2020 / Phalguna 30, 1941 (Saka)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have a suggestion which I would like to develop as a practice. The hon. Members, who want to attend the Parliament Session, should be present in their seats before the Chairman comes. I will tell you the practical difficulty. It is not the question of showing respect to the Chair. That is a secondary thing. Members come a little late and then they have to take their seats and they have to pass through two or three Members and then they have to talk to them. Please do this or that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In view of the dislocation of flight services, on Monday, the Parliament will start from 2:00 PM in the afternoon and continue till the Business is over. Because of dislocation of flights, you were also not able to come on time yesterday. It is a practical problem. It is only for Monday and not daily because you go back only weekly.

*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Need to Suspend Biometric Authentication in Public Distribution System Due to COVID-19

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: The Central Government has taken a decision to suspend biometric attendance for Central Government employees to contain the spread of Covid-19. PDS dealers can hardly be counted on to take such precautions on behalf of their customers. In these circumstances, it seems best to suspend biometric authentication itself. The Government of Kerala has already suspended biometric authentication in the PDS. I urge that this matter may kindly be given urgent consideration as the Covid-19 is spreading fast.

(Shrimati Sarojini Hembram, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti associated.)

2. Distortion of Gurkha History

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Indian Gorkha freedom fighters also participated with Mahatma Gandhi in the famous Dandi March. It is a matter of pride that their names are mentioned in pedestal present at the Gandhi Smriti. I want to draw the attention of the House that our freedom fighters' names are misspelled and their nationality wrongly mentioned. These mistakes are to be immediately corrected

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

The Minister of Railways and the Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Piyush Goyal), Responding to the Matter, Said: I want to make it clear that the nation is very proud of the contribution of Gorkha community and its role and history is well recognized by everybody. I want to assure the Members that Gorkhas' role in Indian history is absolutely respected. There seems to be some distortion in the presentation made by the hon'ble Member which we will correct to her.

3. Need for Central Support for Infrastructural Development of Odisha

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Odisha is needed to be provided with resources by the Central Government. South Odisha has no airstrip other than Jaypore. Rangeilunda already has an airstrip but has not been brought under the UDAN scheme. This should be included in this plan. On the lines of Prayagraj, the Rangeilunda airstrip should also be developed. Atri may be developed as a tourist destination as a hot spring is there. A railway station should be built at Badhamari. Despite the issue of cargo notification for Jharsuguda Airport, no action has been taken in this regard. It should also be included in the 'Krishi Udaan' scheme. Odisha is prone to many natural disasters, so there is a great need for basic infrastructure. There are still 5 districts of Odisha where there is no rail facility. I demand that Odisha be given the status of 'Special Focus State'.

(Dr. Amar Patnaik, Shri Prashanta Nanda, Shrimati Sarojini Hembram and Shri Satish Chandra Dubey associated.)

4. Violation of UGC Norms Governing Recruitment of Temporary Lecturers

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: We are all concerned about the quality of higher education in this country. For this reason, the UGC has laid down norms for faculty members. In some cases these norms are being violated and this is affecting the quality of the education. Moreover highly qualified people are deprived of all opportunities. Permanent positions are being given as Civic Lecturers. Such institutes who are not following the norms should adhere to the norms which are stipulated by the UGC, only then funding should be done by the UGC.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Need for Compensation and Jobs to the Families of the Farmers Affected by the Land Acquired by the Northern Coalfields Ltd. (N.C.L.) in Sonbhadra District, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAM SHAKAL: Land of thousands of farmers was acquired by Northern Coalfields Limited in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh in the year 1982. Several villages were included in the Kakri and Bina projects. The people of these villages were neither compensated nor given jobs. In the year 1994 NCL had proposed for de-notification. But in stead of de-notification, the entire land was given to the NCL. I demand from the Government of India that farmers be provided with fair compensation, jobs and plots for their lands.

(Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha associated.)

6. Need to Ensure CGHS Facilities and Benefits of VII Pay Commission to Teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Kendriya Vidyalayas impart quality education. The teachers of the Kendriya Vidyalayas are not being treated as that of the Government employees. Some of the recommendations of Seventh Pay Commission have not been implemented in the Kendriya Vidyalayas. The teachers are yet to get 25 percentage of their arrears. As per the Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme, all the teachers and employees are eligible to get three financial upgradations after ten consecutive years but it is not implemented for the teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas. As per the new pension Scheme, all organisations have to enhance the pension contribution from 10 percentage to 14 percentage. The same is denied to the teachers of the Kendriya Vidyalayas of our country. The retirement benefits are not being paid timely and even the monthly pension for the last two years is also disrupted. All Government employees are eligible get CGHS benefits. But, but this has been denied to the teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Need to Bring a Grading Scheme in the UPSC Civil Services Exam

DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Lakhs of candidates apply for Civil Services Examination of UPSC but very few of them are able to pass the examination. These candidates spend many years preparing for the Civil Services Examination and they get disappointed when they do not pass the examination. So it would be good if they are given a certificate according to the percentile. The provision to withdraw the application is good one.

(Shrimati Kakhshan Perween, Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Shri Harnath Singh Yadav and Shri K.C. Ramamurthy associated.)

8. Changing Rainfall Patterns and Depleting Groundwater Aquifers

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: In the recent times, our country has witnessed erratic climatic conditions. Such extreme climate conditions are causing irreparable loss to life and property. We need to declare climate emergencies and take mitigation measures on a war-footing. To address the issue of flooding and depleting ground water, I urge the Government to adopt the model of 'sponge cities' which involves replacing unnecessary concrete pavements into wetlands, so that, the rain water is absorbed into the ground. Even resorting to green roof-top rain water harvesting and rain gardens will help in flood control and recharging ground water. I urge the Government to look into this issue very seriously.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Need for Steps for Payment of Arrears of Sugarcane Farmers by Sugar Mills

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: As per the rules, the payment of Sugarcane farmers should be made within 14 days, but let alone 14 days, some mills do not make any payment for two years. Despite the directions of the Central Government and the Honourable Courts, payment is not being made on time. The central government had taken some laudable steps like imposing import duty on the mills,

exporting sugar, keeping its buffer stock and giving soft loans to manufacture ethanol, even though the sugar mills across the country still have to pay around Rs. 19,500 crore as arrears. Due to this, farmers are distressed. Therefore, I would urge the government to direct the sugar mill owners to make timely payment to the sugarcane farmers.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

10. Need to Bring Back Indians Stuck in Philippines Due to Corona virus Outbreak

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: More than 540 students from different states of India are studying in various universities in Philippines. They got stranded there due to an outbreak of Corona viruses. All flights to Philippines have been cancelled, due to which students are not able to come back to the country from there. Therefore, I request the government to take appropriate action to bring these students back to India at the earliest.

DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: 110 students of Rajasthan are stranded at Philippines airport for 24 hours. Their flight was abruptly cancelled. I would request that the government should make some special arrangement to evacuate them because an emergency has been imposed there due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

(Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Shri Ram Vichar Netam, Shrimati Roopa Ganguly and Shrimati Kakhshan Perween associated.)

11. Need for Creation of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Memorial

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: I want to draw the attention of the government to creation of the Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia's memorial. Most of us have followed the Lohian ideology. Lohiaji wanted the deprived and exploited classes to share the power and resources. Our contemporary generation does not know much about him. Through this memorial, we will not only give a message, but it will also promote research and propagate his ideology across the country. It would be a true tribute to that great man.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

12. Need to Declare Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project in Karnataka as a National Project

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIHAH: The Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project in Karnataka is in progress. Many districts of Karnataka are severely struggling to get drinking water. So, the Government of Karnataka has taken up a project called "Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project". It is proposed to utilize 24 TMC of water from the upper reaches of west flowing streams near Sakaleshpur Taluk of Hassan district during monsoon season. I request you to consider declaring the Yettinahole project as national project and necessary orders in this regard may please be issued at the earliest in the interest of drinking water to the common people and drinking water should become a fundamental right in the country.

(Shri Syed Nasir Hussain, Shri G.C. Chandrashekar, Shri B.K. Hariprasad and Shri K.C. Ramamurthy associated.)

13. Demolition of Houses of Poor in Banjar Lands in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI SAKALDEEP RAJBHAR: The poor people have lived with their children and livestock in their kutchha - pucca houses or huts built on the barren lands of *Gram Sabhas* for many years in the State of Uttar Pradesh. But, for the last around two-and-a-half years, in the name of illegal encroachment, these houses and huts of the poor people are being demolished by authorities, which is condemnable and

very sad. According to many verdicts of various courts, people settled in this way should be evicted from the land only after they are rehabilitated/resettled somewhere else. So, I request the Government to save the houses and huts of the poor from demolition and if necessary, they should be settled elsewhere by allotting houses.

14. Need to Formulate Laws/Rules for the Problems of Loss of Crops of Farmers by Stray Animals

SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Stray cattle cause great damage to the crops of farmers in the country. There is no need to raise cows as synthetic milk is being used at large level. Using of mechanized farming and factory made pesticides and fertilizers have made the livestock irrelevant. Therefore, I request that farmers should be covered under the purview of Pradhan Mantri Crop Insurance Scheme and their claims should be settled promptly. A better system can also be put in place by setting up milk collection centres by the government.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Demand to Expedite the Construction Works of Four-Lanning of NH-15 and NH-37

SHRI RIPUN BORA: The attention of the government is drawn to two issues pertaining to inordinate delay in the work of four-laning of NH-15 and NH-37. The work of four-laning of NH-15 from Koliabor Teenali to Itanagar, was started in the year 2012. But after a lapse of eight years, the road is still not complete which is creating serious inconvenience to the public and vehicular traffic and causing fatal accidents. Further, the work of four-laning of NH-37 from Numaligarh to Tinsukia was carried out in the year 2014. The contractors are doing the works very slowly and most of the portions are lying in such a way which is very vulnerable to the security of life. So, I urge the government to do the needful for an early completion of the construction works.

2. Demand to Construct Railway over- Bridges on Railway Crossings on NH- 730 in Areas under Lakhimpur Kheri District

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: National Highway 730 is being upgraded by NHAI. It is an important link road and carries very heavy traffic. Three railway crossings fall on this route under the district Lakhimpur Kheri. Gauge conversion has also been done in this railway section. This section of NH-730 and NER carries heavy traffic. Therefore, I request the government to build ROB's on those railway crossings at the earliest, so that traffic can move in a more convenient manner.

(Shri Javed Ali Khan associated.)

3. Demand for Construction of Facilities for Attendants of Patients in AIIMS and Other Government Hospitals

SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: A large number of outstation and domestic patients visit the AIIMS for treatment and consultancy. The patients are assisted by family members and associates who are under duress due to outbreak of Corona virus. Their pains are exacerbated due to unavailability of lodging facilities and being of limited means, they are forced to tent outside the hospital on the roads. Frequent commuters who cross AIIMS while driving complain about traffic congestions and heightened risk of accidents. It poses a health risk, sanitation hazard, traffic nuisance etc. So, the Government should direct AIIMS and other government Hospitals to construct facilities for attendants of patients admitted in their hospitals.

(Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha, Shri K.C. Ramamurthy and Lt. Gen. (Dr.) D.P. Vats (Retd.) associated.)

4. Demand to bring down Interest on Education Loans Given by Banks

SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Education loans all over the world come very cheap. But in India, education loans are very expensive. Most of the banks lend at over ten per cent interest. Due to this, a lot of students are not able to pursue their studies. I request the

Government to bring down interest rates below five per cent for educational loans.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Demand to Increase Wages under the MGNREGA

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: NREGA Sangarsh Morcha found that MGNREGA wages rate was less than minimum wages rate for agriculture in 33 States and U.T.s. This disparity in wages reduces the incentive to enrol in the scheme and mitigates its effect as economic security net for vulnerable citizens. These concerns are compounded by the recent increase in rural inflation. Hence, I demand that the Government link MGNREGA wages to the State's minimum wages. Lastly, the Central Government presently covers 75 per cent of material cost under the scheme. I demand, a 90:10 sharing pattern of funds to be implemented in its place in order to provide States greater support for this national scheme.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Demand for a Legislation to Ban All Forms of Lotteries

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, paper lotteries are run in 9 states and online lottery in 6 states in the country. Under the Lottery Regulation Act, single-digit lotteries were banned across the country. But now all types of lotteries should be banned. Today, there is no law to regulate lotteries operating internationally and anyone can purchase them. This situation has become graver due to access of the Internet. Therefore, the government should ban international, domestic and online lotteries altogether.

OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIR

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, today the world is reeling under the coronavirus crisis. India has taken all possible measures. Yesterday, the Prime Minister of the country interacted with the public. There is no reason to be panicky, instead, he appealed to be cautious and he boosted public confidence. He explained many measures and programmes to avert the crisis of Corona. He appealed for abiding a public curfew on Sunday, 22 March. This Parliament is with the government's resolve to overcome the Corona crisis together and express this confidence.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Hon'ble Prime Minister has expressed his deep concern yesterday and we fully support the steps taken by the Government. WHO protocols must be followed. The population of India is large, so we have to be completely vigilant. In particular, steps are being taken in India to prevent community transmission and also for social distancing. The Epidemic Act has come into force in India.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Today we are unanimously passing this motion and indeed the leadership of India and every institution of the entire country is being appreciated today in the whole world. The railway workers are working day and night and are helping to keep the rail organized, neat and clean and sanitized. The common feeling in the country is to fight and overcome this crisis. We are all giving full cooperation in this. I would especially thank the media because the media has circulated this message with great positivity in the country. All our doctors and all the law and order staff are confronting this crisis.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

Action Plan to Address Current Situation of Unemployment among Educated Citizens in the Country

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: I move the following Resolution:—

Having regard to the fact that-

- (i) the last financial year has seen the country's economy face several setbacks with a continuously declining GDP growth rate, precarious fiscal deficit, surge in unemployment, decrease in domestic demand and a decline or stagnation in key sectors such as manufacturing, Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), coal, banking, telecom and automobiles amongst others;
- (ii) the decline in the economy has been stated repeatedly by numerous national agencies and also international agencies including the World Bank, IMF, Asian Development Bank and Moody International Services and the Government have also conceded to the current state of the economy;
- (iii) the direct consequences of the economic setback are being faced by each and every citizen of our country as the recent reports and studies have indicated an unprecedented increase in unemployment with over 11 million Indians losing their jobs and the unemployment rate reaching a 15 year low of 8.9%;
- (iv) a large majority of unemployed individuals possess educational qualifications of graduate level and above and according to estimates, 36%, 37% and 36% of all people with diplomas, graduate degrees and postgraduate degrees, respectively, are unemployed which is deeply worrying and requires immediate corrective intervention by the Government;

- (v) the plight of youth who have struggled and overcome life's challenges to secure education and are without any form of employment cannot be overlooked since the effect of this is not only limited to the individual but has also an impact on the entire society of demotivating youth and hampering progress;
- (vi) the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act of 2005, provides a precedent that is aimed at addressing unemployment, however, with a change in the nature and educational qualifications of the labour force, the focus of state intervention must change and in a growing democracy like India, the idea of nation building must utilize resources in the most just and efficient manner, and
- (vii) the difficulties faced by the citizens should be recognised and state intervention must be focused on alleviating these problems as unemployment in educated youth remains one of the gravest social and economic crisis of our times,

This House urges upon the Government to-

- (a) present a comprehensive and holistic report as to the current situation of unemployment among educated citizens in the country and future action plan to address the same; and
- (b) take steps to constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee to work with all stakeholders and develop an Employment Guarantee Act aimed at addressing the unemployment crisis among educated youth, which may be called the Shaheed Bhagat Singh National Employment Guarantee Act.

This Resolution expresses the concern on the grave situation of unemployment prevailing in the country. Half of the population in the country are young, below the age of 25 years. But these youth are unemployed. My Resolution's

sole purpose is to provide a rightful share for Indian youth in fulfilling their role in national, social, political and industrial life. In forty-five years, India has never witnessed such a situation. Unemployment is the gravest problems of this country today. Graduates, post-graduates, researchers and Ph.D. holders apply for the post of a scavenger or for a Class-IV post or for a sweeper! This is India of ours! The Government which came with a promise of two crores of jobs every year, is now asking these people to go and make pakoras or jalebis and be employed yourselves. 36 per cent of the diploma holders, 37 per cent of the graduates, 36 per cent of the post-graduates are unemployed. Unemployment is the child of capitalism. In the society of capitalists, all over the world, it is on the increase. MNREGA is a good step in the rural employment front. But now, year by year, allotment for the MNREGA is getting reduced. Today, there are 31 lakhs vacancies. The biggest employment provider of the country is the Railways and the Government is now trying to privatise that Railways. The NDA Government, now never talk about employment potential of the Government. Apart from Railways, the manufacturing sector, automobile sector, cement, MSME all these sectors are on peril. This is Swadeshi Government serving the interest of the Videshi. Such a Government cannot be justful and truthful for the Indian nationalism. Even though this Government speak about nationalism but when it comes to the Indian youth, they are not seen doing anything for them. This Resolution ask the Government to present a comprehensive and holistic report as to the current situation of unemployment among educated citizens in the country and the future action plans to address the same. It pleads to take steps to constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee to address the unemployment crisis among educated youth. On the agricultural front, the service sector, industries, there is

absolute darkness and despair. Workers, peasants, the poor, all are feeling helplessness. I request the Government not to oppose this Resolution and get it passed unanimously and convey a message to the whole country that the Parliament of India is concerned about the Indian youth, their sorrows, their hopes and wishes.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: This Resolution seeks the Government to present a comprehensive and overall report on the current status of unemployment among educated citizens in the country and its future action plans and also urges for formation of a Joint Parliamentary Committee to enact an Employment Guarantee Act. Social, economic and political justice is very important. The need is that to meet the needs of our country, we should provide such education through which we can give employment to our people. Nowadays globalization of capital is taking place, along with globalization of that capital, there should be globalization of skills too. The unemployment rate is increasing. People are migrating rapidly from villages to cities. They are coming to cities for bright future of children. The government has formulated a new education policy and has also launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. We have to create a curriculum in which the children of the poor and the children of the rich get equal education. It is necessary to provide facilities to the villages. The Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana has provided good facilities in rural areas. The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Urban Housing Scheme launched by the government has provided employment to a large number of people. Measures should be taken to maintain the standard of education in universities. There should be quality in education. For this, there should be qualified teachers to bring quality in education. We also have to work to make freedom meaningful. This resolution is certainly important.

SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: The issue raised by Shri Viswam is absolutely urgent and needs immediate attention. Unemployment is not merely a question concerning economy. Unemployment is a question which is a socio-political question and also a cultural

question. It is not merely a question of generating jobs or giving guarantee of jobs, but also preventing the social and political explosion in society. It can tear apart our society. In 1973-74, India suffered the worst drought of the century. During that period, unemployment became the major issue. When the EGS was started in 1973-74, more than 40 lakh unemployed and drought and famine affected farmers in the rural areas joined the Army for doing some productive work and they were getting wages for it. In fact, that Employment Guarantee Scheme was the foundation for MGNREGA. Unemployment is not merely an economic issue of giving wages to some young persons aged between 18-40 or 18-50 years. Often when unemployment is measured, female unemployment is not even taken into account. They are not counted as unemployed people. Children in the age group of 6-14 years work in hotels and small establishments. They are hugely exploited. The families are dependent on these children because they bring some money and food to the families. Our society has become completely middle class. It does not recognize that there is poor even in the rural and urban areas. Eradicating unemployment is not some kind of social compassionate work. Unemployment has to be eradicated completely. Unemployment is the result of bad social planning. Mere physical occupation is not employment. Physical occupation must have mental occupation also. There are youth who become educated because of the educational facilities given by the State or by the NGOs. They get educated but they do not get employment of any kind. Again, we have to distinguish between work and employment. We look at employment only in connection with certain work and wages and not necessarily productive work and productive wages. Fascism is a result of such unemployment. Many of the people, who are religiously fanatic, is unemployed. If the youth is employed properly, he would not be joining the gangs. Therefore, the unemployed and the educated unemployed are completely marginalized and socially thrown out. If we do not tackle the issue of unemployment, we are heading for a big catastrophic riotous situation. It is necessary that we tackle unemployment issue very comprehensively. Shri Viswam's Resolution is absolutely justified.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Agriculture and MSME are the two sectors that generate the maximum employment in this country. If the government pays attention to these sectors, it will help reduce unemployment. The MNREGA needs to be reformed so that workers can get work for 365 days. Due to MNREGA, farmers are not getting labourers. The government should give half the money to the labourers and farmers will give half the money to the labourers. This will also save the government money. Farmers's money will be also saved and the workers will get full 365 days of work. When employment decreases, unemployment will automatically increase and when unemployment increases, poverty will also increase. Unemployment leads to poverty, so elimination of unemployment should be the first goal. Also, demonetisation has also affected these poor people. No body in villages is in a position to give employment to others and the Government is saying that people are taking loans from banks. If small farmer is not in a position to repay the loan of even Rs.500/- he is sent to jail. But the Corporate people are taking loan and they are not repaying the same but nothing has happened with them. These people are investing their money abroad. As per statistics, in 1961 per capita 73.4 KG rice and 25.2 KG per capita pulses were available per year whereas in 2017 66.8 KG per capita per year rice was available. We are at 102nd place in World Hunger Index and we talk of 4th and 5th economy in the world. Even Sri Lanka is ahead. We were No. 1 in textiles but Now Bangladesh is ahead. Now unemployment among youth is in worst conditions. Even the Graduates are applying for the posts of sweeper. No Government can provide employment to all educated youth. The country like India, where manpower is available and land is available, there is need to establish small industries to give employment to more and more people. The growth rate of every sector in India is going down. We need such policies which can generate employment actually. If youth are employed then the crime rate will be less. What is the reality, we have to see. Huge amounts are released for digging ponds. But ponds are constructed at higher places where rain water can not be restored naturally. Old tanks are required to be restored but these are encroached illegally. Supreme Court ordered to remove

such encroachments but nothing has happened in this regard. Money is released for the development of country but that money is not being utilised properly. Under MGNREGA actual amount is not paid to the worker. So there is need to keep a close look on agriculture and MSME Sectors. It is needed to enact an Act regarding employment.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: The unemployment in our country is increasing at an alarming rate. The unemployment in the country at four decade high. It is all-time high. But the Government is not accepting the reality. It is due to economic policies that we have been following for the last two decades. It is jobless growth which as to be identified and addressed. During Demonetisation, it had aggravated. All the sectors are in deep crisis. Agriculture is a major sector where majority of our population is employed. Agricultural produce are now opened to foreigners but the farmers are not equipped to combat the multinational companies. We are not able to compete with them. Farmers are not getting remunerative prices. Government had promised that they are going to double the income of farmers. But farmers are committing suicide. So agriculture sector is in deep crisis. MSME is showing declining trend. It is not known that how many cottage industries have been closed and how many have stopped production. The workers employed in these MSME are losing their jobs. Not a single PSU has been opened but many PSUs have been closed. In BSNL only one lakh people have lost their jobs. Railway is going to be privatised. All secured employment is going to be sabotaged. Two crore jobs every year were promised. Government is saying that jobs are created. As per statistics, in 2011 among rural youth unemployment ratio was 3.6% and it increased to 10% in 2018. Among rural female it raised from 9.7% to 17.3% , among urban males it raised from 4% to 9.2% and among urban female it raised from 10.3% to 19.8% during this period. It is an alarming situation. The students are burdened by loans. To Get admissions to professional courses, students have to take loans. Earlier education was free. But private players are coming in this field and they charge heavy fee for professional education. These youths are seeking jobs. But the Government says them to take MUDRA Loan and start work. This is a mockery. It is a very serious issue which needs to be

considered. It is pathetic state of affair because of Government's policy and liberalisation policy which helps corporates. Government is not concerned about unemployed youths and students. These are being neglected. It is requested to reconsider the policies and set up new PSUs where people can get employment. A guaranteed Employment Scheme in the name of Bhagat Singh can be implemented. It is also requested to give unemployment allowance.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: One issue is regarding female labour force participating in the country. The labour force participation declined from 39.5% to 37% from 2011-12 to 2017-18. This is broken into two parts. The female labour force participation rate had declined from 29% to 22% between 2004-05 and 2011-12 and by another 18% in 2017-18. In the Developed countries it is approximately 50% of the total labour force participation. Unless female labour force participation rate increases, the total employment scenario will not improve. In Odisha there is largest number of women self help groups, which have been energised and incentives are given and other supports are being provided to these self-help groups. Loan should be given at zero per cent rate of interest to the self-help groups in villages so that employment and income could be generated particularly among women. It would ultimately contribute to the rural economy. Under-employment and disguised employment are structural issues in the Indian economy, which can be addressed only when you bring reforms. Reform is required in agriculture sector, particularly in the marketing of agricultural products. Small and marginal farmers have no say in determining the price of their products. There is a need to focus on skill development and educational qualification matching with job requirements available in private or government sector so that every youth could have a job.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN: The Government has a right to collect taxes from the people. Their duty is to protect the people. The Government should provide socio-economic protection to its citizens. But this Government has failed in that. The shocking thing is that the Government itself is a cause for increasing unemployment. Human Development Index is an important aspect in the growth of the

economy. This index depends on employment. But, the Government is not bothered about this index. The Government is selling the PSUs to the private sector, when it should create more PSUs. PSUs provide employment. The Government has not taken sufficient steps during the past six years for generating employment opportunities in the country. They have only made promises. Two crore employment per year was a promise made by the Prime Minister. I fully support the Resolution moved by Shri Binoy Viswam.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: The resolution moved by Shri Binoy Viswam is on an issue, which is above party politics. Our economy is conducive for only one per cent of the people, while there is no concern for 99 per cent of the people. Because these 99 per cent are just voters, they are not donors to the political parties. Only those who are able to donate to political parties determine the policy and intent of the economy. Everyone should have equal rights on essential requirements like health, education, employment. These should not be under the grip of capitalists only. Currently, in many nations all over the world, the Governments are occupying authoritarian positions. As a preventive measure against the Corona virus, our Hon'ble Prime Minister has advised to maintain 'social distance'. In this country, due to the caste system, social distance is already there in the society. A better term for this could have been 'physical distance with social solidarity'. According to a survey of international agencies, more than 25 million are going to lose their jobs due to corona virus. Its impact in villages and small towns and particularly on the unorganized sector needs to be taken care of. If the Government could raise the daily wages of workers under the MNREGA, it will send a positive signal in the country. The attitude of a section of the media is also not conducive to the basic concerns of the common people. There is no space left in the media for the problem of common people.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: The Resolution moved by Shri Binoy Viswam on declining economic situation and also on the present position of unemployment in the country is very important. It requires to be debated in this august House. There has been a downward revision of India's GDP growth estimates. During the UPA

regime, the negligent way of giving loans, high-level mass corruption and falsely implicating industrialists and the political opponents was the main reason. During the NDA regime, the infirmities in implementation of the GST and non-realisation of desired results in the case of demonetization are the responsible factors for the present state of economy. I give four suggestions in order to revive the economy and bring back normalcy. The first suggestion is, the youth has to be provided employment. There are huge vacancies even in the present Central Government. These massive vacancies mean that the present staff is overworked and the quality of the work goes down. The Government of India should immediately fill the existing vacancies. Filling up of vacancies is a process, which should be continued regularly by the successive Governments. It is a historical decision. That is the way in which jobs and employment is created for the youth. Unless the Government addresses the issues of the rural areas, it is not possible to revive the economy because 60 to 65 per cent of India's population is dependent on farming and allied sectors. There is a need to create demand. In this year's Budget, we have seen a decrease in spending on subsidies, which is alarming. Government should make efforts to increase the inflow of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Government should focus on the basic infrastructure, which is very important for the economic stability. Top-priority should be given for completion of existing infrastructure projects, which are yet to be completed. Once the Government starts spending on the infrastructure projects, there will be larger flow of money into the economy. The per-capita income of the individuals would go up and spending capacity of them would also go up. It will help to improve the economic standard. The effect of Coronavirus would be known in the next few months to come. It is right time for India to take advantage of this situation. It is an opportune time to replace China as the manufacturer for the world.

SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO: The discussion on unemployment of the educated is a very important subject which should be dealt with in a non-partisan manner. But opposition is making critical comments based on certain myths that are not based on reality and facts. I have a problem with the Resolution per se. This

Resolution is quoting certain statistics about unemployment in the country which are not final estimates. They need to be understood from the right perspective. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) was introduced by NSSO during 2017-18. Opposition has misused it. This is an attempt to mislead the people of this country by quoting some numbers and statistics which have not been finalized. Employment and Unemployment Surveys (EUS) were conducted by NSSO till 2011-2012. NITI Aayog constituted a Task Force during term of this Government. That Task Force gave many suggestions and said that the way we are assessing the status of employment needs to be changed. One of the suggestions made was to conduct a Periodic Labour Force Survey. There is a great difference between the present method and the earlier one. You cannot compare these two surveys. This is a big flaw. It is a statistical aberration. This is only being used for political propaganda. *(Speech unfinished)*

Discussion not concluded.

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