

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI, SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.36 ½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL \*

(Amendment of article 324, etc.)

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member may now introduce the Bill.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Insertion of new article 394A)

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduced the Bill No. 16 in 1986 with a view to getting the constitutional recognition to the Hindi version of the Constitution. As the Government itself has performed this task by bringing a similar Constitution (Amendment) Bill in the last session, I, therefore, beg that leave be granted to withdraw the Bill. I beg to move that leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The member may now withdraw the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI: I withdraw the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL--Contd.

(Insertion of new article 15A)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Thampan Thomas on the 4th December, 1987, namely:--

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration."

Shri Shantaram Naik,

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my colleague Mr. Thappan Thomas has sought to add article 15A to the Constitution which says that all citizens have the right to employment. Any citizen who cannot be provided with employment, shall be given an unemployment allowance at the rate fixed by a statutory authority appointed by the Government of India."

In my humble submission, I can share the concern of the Member with respect to the problem of unemployment which is

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going on and which is increasing in the country day by day. Every one of us, whether he belongs to the ruling party or to the Opposition or to other institutions in the country, is concerned with the problem of unemployment which the country is facing. But if the introduction of an article in the Constitution could be a solution to this problem, then I would also have been equally happy that if this is the magic rod, why not have it. But, Sir, the solution does not lie merely in amending the Constitution on an aspect involving huge financial expenditure the solution cannot lie. Therefore, it has to be seen whether we have got appropriate resources to face or to meet the requirement of this proposed amendment. And in my humble submission even my colleague will admit that at this stage we do not have those Rs. 800 crores which, according to the Financial Memorandum would be required in case we adopt this article. From where are we going to get this amount? Are we going to tax the common man on each and every item to see that hundred rupees are given as unemployment dole to persons who are unemployed. Are you going to tax the poor man in the street on each item of consumption while he is already over-burdened on account of increased prices and taxation? This is the aspect which has to be seen. Therefore, I would say that although my learned colleague's spirit or concern is welcome, yet for want of finances, we as a country cannot afford this Rs. 800 crores. I see that even the State Governments who wanted to have this sort of legislation to provide for unemployment dole are finding it difficult to have it.

The second argument against this dole system is this. By having this sort of provision in our Constitution or by any law that may be proposed under the Constitution, we are making our youth basically weak, we are taking away their resisting power, we are making them subservient to that 100 rupee note and making them further lazy if we promise them any sort of unemployment dole. Certainly this country cannot afford. We have to give them direction to tap the resources of this country, we have to give them direction to be

self-employed, we have to give them assistance in all ways possible to see that even though jobs in Government and other sectors are not available to see to it that they employ themselves, they do some sort of activities whereby they earn sufficient means to sustain themselves and not to rely upon or not to beg for that Rs. 100 or whatever dole my learned colleague proposes for them. Instead, I would say, we should inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship whatever it is, big or small, in our unemployed youth and give a direction to be self-employed rather than having this system of giving them doles.

Another aspect in this connection I would like to state is that our new education policy which lays stress on technical education has to be fortified. No doubt the hon. Minister for Human Resource Development has said that we will see to it that every State Government tries to have this system of technical education strengthened in each strata or in each level, yet unless we keep monitoring at the Central level regarding the activities of the State with respect to technical education, perhaps all the State Governments may not attain the objective of technical education to the desired effect. Therefore, this is one area which we should stress as a solution to unemployment because the system as it is, is found to be defective in the sense that we create graduates and undergraduates who do not have scope for employment. It is, therefore, that our new education policy lays stress on and therefore, we should now stress upon the implementation part of it.

Secondly, we should inculcate entrepreneurship. We should see, that our younger generation, after they come from schools or whatever institutes if they have got the enterprising spirit, and would like to establish some industrial units, then the Government should go all the way to help them. We have got various schemes. But I would say, whatever procedures which are there with respect to obtaining industrial licences, loans, subsidies and all this, have to be simplified so that no youth who desire to get self-employed or desire to establish industrial unit is frustrated half-way

[Shri Shanta Ram Naik]

because rules are complicated, just because, he does not understand how to go about. Therefore, it is essential that we simplify our rules.

Secondly, bureaucratic delay in getting licences or sanctions or loans should be minimised. I would say, if any officer in any Section or Department of the Government is found that he is not cooperating with the people who approach for self-employment or if he behaves rudely etc., he should be dealt with seriously, should be castigated and these things should not be taken lightly. Unless it is done, the tendency of the officers, bureaucrats who are in-charge of these schemes will not change. The system of single-door redressal which is there should be implemented. In case persons want to get self-employed would like to set up industrial units, they have to go, at least, to 10 windows. Therefore, the Central Government in the Department of Public Grievances are trying their best to have a single door system. We should implement this system effectively. The person who wants to come and establish a unit, must get all assistance in one-window itself. How the Government coordinates and manages with other sections or other Departments should be the concern of the Government but not of the person. The concerned person should be dealt with through one window only. The system is there already but is not being effectively implemented. I would say that the Central Government should send directives to all the State Governments to effectively implement the single door system. Our 20th point of the 20-point programme which speaks of simplification of procedure should be effectively implemented by the Central Government. If that point is implemented effectively, all these problems can be solved.

Lastly, I would say about the industrial policy. In fact, the Central Government has the industrial policy that they should make that more elaborated. We should review the industrial policy to guide the entire nation, including the States. At the same time,

I would suggest that since each State Government has got its own peculiar conditions, the State Government should be asked to chalk out their own industrial policy also based upon facts and conditions in a particular State and that policy should be in line with the Central Government so that monitoring of the Central Government policy and that of the State Government can be done at the Central level.

With these few submissions, I would request my hon. Colleague not to press for this Bill and to withdraw the Bill because although the entire House will be agreeing that we should solve this unemployment problem, merely because we amend this article of the Constitution the objective cannot be achieved, since it involves huge finance.

15.49 hrs.

180 SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the Bill piloted by my esteemed colleague, Shri Thampan Thomas. Hon. Member, Shri Shantaram Naik was just now saying, though he accept it in principle, he was sceptical about the implementation of the Bill. Of course, I do understand what he says but I am not pessimistic in that regard. Just now I was glancing through the Economic survey which is placed on the Table of the House this morning. At the moment, the unemployed in the live registers of the Employment Exchanges is 304 lakhs as at the end of November, 1987. It is increasing year by year. It has increased by nearly 3% over last year's figures. That is what the Economic Survey says. I can understand that the Government has not been able to tackle this unemployment problem. In our registers, books and reports, we get information only with regard to the persons who are registered in the Employment Exchanges. But there are millions and millions who do not know where the Employment Exchange is and what the Employment Exchange means. That is the problem. What is to be done? It is not a party question. Many of the Members opposite also supported this resolution. It is necessary that we should put forth all our heads and see that this problem is solved. I am also a freedom fighter. I never expected that our country

will face such a situation. There is terrible poverty. Even after 40 years of independence, 50% of the population is below poverty line. When I was a boy, I fought for freedom. We expected that immediately after independence, there will be no unemployment problem in our country. That is what Mahatmaji wanted. Mahatmaji knew the condition of the country. He wanted us to go in a particular way. But unfortunately, we have forgotten not only Gandhiji but even Gandhian ideals. I will come later on to what Gandhiji said on this matter. How are you going to tackle this problem? Whenever a youngman wants to apply to some job, there is no advertisement at all with regard to the recruitment. Whenever we ask about any employment the Government says that Government of India has stopped all recruitment except in a very few cases. How are you going to solve this problem? Even in the organised sector, even in the public sector and every sector, the number of sick industrial units in our country as on today is 1½ lakhs involving an investment of Rs. 5,000 crores. I came to know this from Economic Survey which is supplied this morning. A survey has been made and according to the survey, only about 5,000 industries could be revived as they are viable and 1,25,000 are unviable. What has happened to the investment there? What about the lakhs and lakhs of workers who are working in those units? It will add to the problem.

It is, therefore, necessary that we should think over this matter very seriously. We have been debating many subjects. I think this is an important subject on which the entire House must discuss.

Shri Shantaram Naik said it would be difficult for the Government to provide doles to unemployed when Government commits itself to this Article. I do agree. I do not mean that everybody must be given a Government job. It is impossible. No Government can do it, not even in the capitalist country or socialist country. What I mean is that employment should be provided which means right to work which again means that conditions must be created by which a person gets himself employed. There are millions of families where

there is not even a single earning member in the family. What should happen to them? Is it not the responsibility of any civilised Government to see that every man is employed? He should earn. One member in the family at least should have an earning. That point, we have ignored and even our planners have ignored it right from the time of Pandit-ji. I know the Government has been doing it. I don't say that the Government has not done it at all. We have a number of schemes for the poverty alleviation. We have got the schemes like IRDP, NREP and RLEGP and so many schemes. Even then, with all the schemes and spending crores of rupees over those schemes, yet we have 50% of persons below the poverty-line. It remains almost the same. Of course, marginal decrease is there. But it is the same for the past several years. Therefore, we should think of alternatives. My hon. friend is right in saying that if it is merely by substitution of the amendment if it can be done then we will certainly support it. But it is not a magic wand. But it is not so. I am now coming to the point as to what we should do. Under the circumstances what I feel as an humble Member, I have said that thing, at the outset--is that we have failed and the planners have failed because we did not pay heed to the advice given by Mahatmaji. That is why we have failed in solving this problem in our country. I have just now mentioned about sickness in the industry--small-scale, big-scale and in the big industries. We are now thinking of going to the 21st century as a modern country. Our main theme and thrust and particularly the present Prime Minister's thrust has been of modernisation. I am not against modernisation because I know the benefits that will accrue out of modernisation. To quote one simple example, I would like to say that here in the Railway counter, it used to take us 15 minutes to get a ticket and it is the same as far as airlines booking is concerned. But now we get it in one or two minutes. Of course, advantages are there. But at the same time we should also bear in mind the effect of modernisation. Unemployment is already there. The Government say that there will be no retrenchment; it will not create unemployment. I would like to say

[Shri V.S. Krishna Iyer]

that it does create unemployment. Maybe, at the moment there will be no retrenchment. I have seen in practice. To cite an example, there is a textile mill in Karnataka, a recently established one, which is near Bangalore. The gentleman who has established each a textile mill in Bombay used to have thousands of workers in his factory. But in the factory which was established in Karnataka, only with 80 workers, he is carrying on double the business and double the production because he has modernised the whole thing. Therefore, we should seriously think of what is best suited for our country. We should think in which sector or which sphere we should go in for modernisation and how we should deal with modernisation. Modernisation, if it involves retrenchment or unemployment, could we afford that luxury in our country? Therefore, we should ponder over this point.

Having said so, it will be a pertinent point to ask what my suggestion would be. If I were to emphasise again--I have already said many a time on the floor of this House--I have firm belief and faith in what Mahatma Gandhi taught us. India means not 20 per cent cities like Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore and Calcutta. Bharath means the 80 per cent that lives in villages. That is Bharath. So, to solve this unemployment problem, to solve this under-employment problem, it is very necessary that we should go back to what Mahatma Gandhi said and implement it with fairness and also with faith in that. So, the only solution which occurs to me is that we should go in for village industries and cottage industries. That alone will solve the problem of unemployment in our country. Government should create conditions. Government should see that in every village there is an industry and every person becomes engaged in the industry. Even if you invest crores of rupees in a factory, what is happening now. You have nationalised so many things. Only the other day, the hon. Minister was saying that in the Coal India Ltd., a loss of Rs. 350-400 crores has been incurred per year. In heavy industries, we

invest crores and crores of rupees and the loss is there. In fact, the loss is also in crores of rupees. Of course, we want big industries in the core sector. I don't object to that. There should be a mixed economy. I do agree to it. But if we had only given a few thousands of rupees to a villager and asked the villager to start a village industry, we would have, by this time, solved many of the unemployment problems in many of the rural parts in our country. On a previous occasion also. I had mentioned about our famous late-lamented Engineer-Statesman ~~Sir. M. Vishweshwariah~~.

~~16.00 hrs.~~

He was a pioneer in industrial and irrigation projects. He was the builder of modern Mysore, that has now become Karnataka. He had a plan which was called Vishweshwariah Scheme for Rural Upliftment. I would request the Hon. Minister Mr. Dinesh Singh to get that scheme. If only it is implemented in full, this unemployment problem would be solved. Shri Vishweshwariah was telling: "you implement it and there will be no unemployment problem in Mysore." I would suggest that that is a beautiful scheme which he has given. He has said about what is to be done in each village. Now if you take broad things of that scheme and see what could be implemented, it would help a lot.

~~16.01 hrs.~~

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN *in the Chair*]

My whole point is, ~~as Mr. Shantaram Naik has said~~, it is not merely--what Government should do. If the founding fathers of the Constitution, had included it in the Fundamental Rights, right from the beginning, things would have been different. Now, it is in the Directive Principles. Of course, in the Directive Principles, there are so many things like the eradication of illiteracy. But unfortunately, we do not take--seriously what is there in the Directive Principles. Unfortunately, all these years, we have not taken what is enshrined in the Directive Principles of the Constitu-

tion. That is why, my esteemed friend ~~Mr.~~ **Thampan Thomas** who is an advocate himself, has piloted this Bill. I would request all the Hon. Members, and also the Government, not to treat it as a party subject, because it has been brought by an opposition Member. It is a serious matter.

Another point which I would like to suggest, at this juncture, is that whether they have got figures of how many of the families in our country are there where there is not a single earning member in the family? It is necessary that we should identify those families. You select them first, and see at least one person gets gainful employment. In this connection, the Hon. Minister Shri Dinesh Singh must be knowing that in Karnataka an experiment has been tried. Mr. Rama Krishna Hedge did propose this. It was in the election manifesto and people voted for it. But unfortunately, he made a beginning only in one or two blocks; due to continuous droughts for four years, that could not be proceeded with. Of course, it is going at a snail's pace. But that is not due to Government's fault, nature come in the way. I would request the Government of India to first of all, identify the families. It is not difficult for the State Government. You can get that figure in one months' time.

Now I know you have got a number of rural development programmes like IRDP, NREP. But are you ensuring permanent appointment? No. You are giving a few thousands of rupees. Do you think that by paying Rs. 2000 or Rs. 5000, poverty can be eradicated? It is impossible particularly at the present rate. What I would suggest is that if a family contains five members, at least, they should have two square meals a day. You can understand how much that man should earn for living because we are talking of minimum wages, need based wages. You should consider that. What I would suggest to you is to select the family in a village. Suppose he needs Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000. You give him that not as a dole but as a loan. You give him that in a repayable easy instalment basis and ask him to earn his livelihood through setting up industry and if he is a tiller of the land then by tilling it. If you can give loan for

small business, you give it for small business. Please don't give a nominal or token amount like in 'Luan Melas' because that will just be spent in three or four days; not even in months. That will not suffice. You should plan it in such a way that the family which has been given assistance by the Government gets gainful employment, attains a position of being able to repay the Government loan and at the same time lead an honourable life. We should have a plan like that.

If the Government has a statutory responsibility, if it is enshrined in the Constitution, then it would have done like that long back. Unfortunately in the absence of this particular article in the Constitution as a fundamental right, no Government--State or Central--takes it seriously.

The Bill brought forward by Shri Thampan Thomas is very timely. We are now formulating the 8th Plan and this is the time to think about it. I hope the Government will give a serious thought to it. At the same time, I would appeal to all the Hon. Members--both on this side and on the ruling side--to support this Bill and see that this is included in the Constitution by way of an amendment suggested here. With these words, I support the Constitution Amendment Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call upon the next person to speak, I bring to the notice of the House that the time allotted for the discussion on this Bill is over. What is the consensus of the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Two hours' extension should be given.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I have no objection to it if the Hon. Members agree to it.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk): The next Bill should also be taken up today.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: It is physically impossible to have both the things. It is already past 4 O'clock and if two hours'

[Shrimati Sheela Dikshit]

extension is given to this Bill, the next Bill will not come up today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is extended by two hours.

Shri Ram Swarup Ram to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM (Gaya): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Constitution Amendment Bill which has been brought by Mr. Thomas for providing employment to all people is very relevant to the present political context. Measures stated in this bill warrant serious discussion.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of unemployment has assumed a gigantic proportion in our country. The number of unemployed young youths with Matric, B.A. and M.A. degrees have touched to a whopping figure of 4 crores. Their names are registered in Employment Exchanges. I am of the view that if the names of the people, who live in the remote villages and are unable to get their names registered in Employment Exchange due to their poverty, are also added to it, this figure will touch an another high.

We are about to enter into 21st century with a vast army of four crore unemployeed people. This is not a political issue. This is an issue closely related to the national problem which required to be looked into national perspective. We introduce so many schemes. We are thankful to the Prime Minister for his endeavour for providing employment to the people under the different programmes such as IRDP and RLEGP in the country, we have also got success in it. Previously, the number of people living below the poverty line was fifty four percent, now it has come down to 37 percent but this employment has been provided to the people who are illiterate, uneducated and working as farm labourers and those who did not get work in the vil-lages, but so far as number of educated un-employeed is concerned, they have not

been covered under these schemes and the number of such youths registered with the employment exchanges continues to be the static at the figure of four crores and their problems are not being solved. On the one hand, we see that our problem of unem-employment is increasing by leaps and bounds and on the contrary, a ban is im-posed on the new recruitment in all the departments. On the one side, we want to remove this unemployment problem and while on the other side a ban is imposed on new recruitment in all the departments, this is contradictory to each other.

In order to solve this problem, we will have to make a fresh plan, we have to ponder over it. If this gagantic problem is not solved, it will pose a serious problem for us, when children of farmers, poor villagers with B.A., M.A. and Matric degrees are not provided employment, their minds may turn to devils as idle mind is a heaven for the devils. He may take the wrong path. To my mind, the eruption of law and order problem is mainly attributed to this unem-employment problem. Our un-employeed youth have no source of livelihood, which has become a problem. So this is a very appropriate and critical time that this bill may not be taken as a private-member Bill but the Government should accept this bill. I do agree that the Government is not in a position to provide employment to all the unemployed youths but I want that whatever the minimum possible relief could be given to them, it should be given through this bill. Some State Governments have provided for unemployment allowance at the rates ranging from Rs. 50 to 100/- per month. But the amount is paid to them after six months. In Bihar this is given at the rate of Rs. 50 per month. To my mind, by providing doles to our youth, we are encouraging the tendency of begging among them and thus we are not giving them a very good incentive as they are the future of the country. Hon. Prime Minister is equally concerned about it and he had announced from the rampart of the Red Fort that an amount of Rs. 35 thousand would be provided to each unemployed for this self employment. But there is some lacuna in it also. When we attend the meetings of Twenty Point Programmes in

District and ask the target under self employment programme, we are told that it is to be given to 1300 people. But in fact, not more than three hundred to four hundred persons are provided employment under the scheme in a district. Banking process is so complicated that the unemployed youth becomes frustrated half-way and leave all hopes of upliftment through such measures, thinking that this programme will not prove to be successful for them.

I would like to say one thing more that what to talk of providing employment to general people, even persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes do not get employment. There is a provision of reservation in the constitution, but I see that persons with even B.A., M.A., and Matric degrees are not getting job and they are forced to lead a life of Agricultural labourers in each and every village. When we visit the villages, we find that in every village youths, as many as hundred or so in number with B.A., M.A. degrees are unemployed. Among them, five to ten persons belonging to harijans are also found to be unemployed. This bill has been brought forward to provide for right to work in the constitution so that employment could be provided to each and every person but I would like to say that had the provision for Reservation enshrined in the Constitution was implemented in toto, at least persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would not have to face the problem of unemployment. Today, they are also facing the same problem. The bill brought forward by Mr. Thomas to provide for guarantee of employment in the constitution, will not solve the problem unless it is implemented in toto. The solution of this problem lies in our will power, that how much political will power we possess and only then we can solve this problem. I also want to say that whatever urgent arrangements have been made in Reservation System, I request the Government that a nation-wide-movement should be started in the country to implement them and the people should get facilities and reservation as provided in the constitution be implemented in toto. Only then, I think that a gigantic problem like this can be solved.

I want to say that we are proceeding towards modernisation. We are encouraging modern technology in the country, but I feel that the problem of unemployment can not be solved by modern technology. Both the things can not go hand in hand because where you use modern technology, you will have to employ say five persons instead of 105 and thus remaining 100 people would be rendered jobless. To compensate this, you will have to make alternative arrangements. I do not want that modern technology should not be introduced in India and the people of India should not get benefit of it. We should use it fully but the manpower which will be retrenched due to adoption of modern technology and will be rendered jobless, alternative arrangements will have to be made for them. For alternative arrangements, I feel that we would have to encourage rural industries. You may formulate a plan so that at least small scale industries which are carried on at our panchayat levels, be extended and our rural khadi industries brought to panchayat level so as to provide employment to people there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have observed that stress is increasing on the cities today due to unemployment, stress is ever increasing on metropolitan cities. Due to shortage of employment avenues in rural areas, poor people are migrating towards cities. The truth behind this remains that we have not made proper planning. Unemployed in the villages should be provided employment there itself by establishing new industries and developing technology so as to avoid stress on the cities. But you must be observing that out of 1 lakh and 30 thousand small scale units, 1 lakh units have been closed. Crores of rupees pertaining to the Government has been lying unutilised in these units. One can well imagine the plight of the people who have been retrenched from those units.

For this, I want to cite the example of Rohtass Industry Udyog complex in Bihar. Thirty thousand people worked there. I agree that this is a private enterprise. But the owners of the Rohtass Udyog Complex have closed it. They owe an amount of Rs. 19 crore pertaining to Electricity Board alone. When the owners of this complex

[Shri Ramswaroop Ram]

felt that they have squeezed the complex to the maximum, they closed it. I have raised this issue in this august House many times, I also raised the matter through special motions that 30 thousand workers have been rendered jobless due to closing of this industry. Therefore, this complex should be transferred to public sector from private sector. But this complex remains as it is.

There is a sugar mill in Guraru in my constituency. This is the only mill in south Bihar where one thousand labourers worked. That mill has also been lying closed for the last two years. When I enquired as to why this mill had been closed, I was intimated that modernisation of the mill was under way. If the mill is closed in the name of modernisation or the Rohtass Industry complex is closed down, you can imagine, how much unemployment it will lead to.

This is our Prime Minister's over riding desire that problem of unemployment should be eradicated from our country. But the beaurocrats and the men working under them do not want that the schemes started by the Prime Minister be successful. Our Prime Minister desires whole heartedly that unemployment should be eradicated and doing his best towards it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, unless we solve this problem with full determination, unemployment will not be eradicated. I would like to say to the extent that if there is no big reaction to it, principle of one family one job should be adopted. Unless such step is taken, problem of unemployment will keep increasing day by day. Four crores of people stand registered to the live registers of the employment exchanges. Next time, when we discuss it, this number will be found to be another high and a critical problem would have to be faced in the country. Therefore, I want that the principle of one family one job should be enforced.

Sir, you have seen that members of the same family are engaged in various fields

such as govt. service, industry, business and transport etc. Unemployment among 80 per cent of the youths is attributed to this. It is found that a few people possess land in the villages and the very same persons own industries too. Calibre and education are also confined to a very small number of the persons. I want that one man should have only one means of occupation. If I am a member of the parliament, I have no right of doing other work. If one is a lawyer, he has no right to do other work. Unless we adopt the principle of one family one job, the problem of unemployment existing in our village will not be eradicated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a big problem of our country. Our Government very much desired to solve this problem. I want that policy of 'one family, one job' be enforced. The justice which could not be given to the people living in villages, this policy would do now. If we can succeed in getting them justice, the future of this country will brighten up, otherwise it will look dimmed.

With these words, I support this bill and insist upon the Government that it should get this bill passed in this House by bringing a Government bill.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): MR. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion on a Private Member's Bill. Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank the hon. Member, Shri Thampan Thomas for having brought forward this Bill and thus provided an opportunity to this House to discuss an important matter like this.

Sir, the purpose underlying this Bill, i.e. it is intended to insert a new clause--clause 15(a)--is that all citizens shall have the right to employment. This is the provision he wants to be inserted in the Constitution after Article 15. As you know, Article 15 deals with the fundamental right. His intention is that the right to employment should also be included in that fundamental right, in the list of the fundamental rights.

Sir, it is very sound, quite all right, quite laudable. Everybody is inclined to support it and I am no exception but in principle I would like to support it. The point here is, how far it is realistic and how far it is practical. Is it practical at all in our present set up? Whether it is practical to make the right to employment a fundamental right?

Sir, it may be appreciated that ours is a vast country and our population, as you know, is of the order of about 80 crores. It was about 35 crores at the time of partition. At what speed we are increasing our population, is a matter of great concern. That is the whole cause of our plight. We have achieved a lot since independence. In every field we have achieved remarkable progress, be it in the field of agriculture, industry etc. Still poverty is something we are not able to overcome. Of course, determined efforts are being made so that the percentage of people below the poverty line is gradually reduced. During the past years we have achieved good results in the field of implementation of poverty amelioration programme. But then, Sir, I would not like to undermine the importance of the subject. This is quite a serious problem, a burning problem of the day, i.e. the problem of unemployment. As somebody was saying, it is difficult to say what is the number of unemployed persons in India because their number is quite large. But they do not go to the Employment Exchanges for registration. The condition in our rural areas is such, particularly among the uneducated people, that they do not even go to the Employment Exchange. In fact, they do not even know that there is a provision like that. So, nobody knows as to how many people are uneducated, who are unemployed. Even regarding educated unemployment, we cannot rely on the figures, which are there in the live registers of our Employment Exchanges. Even some hon. Members who were quoting the figures were not accurate--some of them said it is 3.6 crores and others say, it is 6.0 crores. But whatever may be the case, even this 3.6 crores does not include uneducated unemployed.

The question of under-employment is also there. Our agricultural labourers whom

we do not call unemployed, are actually under-employed. You leave apart the irrigated area and see for yourself the dry area. As you know one-third of our area is irrigated.

We have to depend on the rain God. This is a very-very serious problem. Without rains they cannot do anything. This under-employment problem has assumed alarming proportions. In the country of about 80 crore population if 5 crore or 6 crore people are under-employed what will be the position. It may be even more. It may be much more than 5 per cent or sometimes it may be more than 10 per cent.

Yesterday, a Parliamentary Delegation from Mauritius was here in our Parliament House. We have had some exchange of ideas with them. It is a very small country. It has a population of only one crore. They are also not free from this problem of unemployment. This menace is there in Mauritius also. As much as 50,000 unemployed youths are there waiting for employment. Even in developed countries--European countries--this problem is there. Two years back I had been to Sweden. As you all know, it is a developed country. There also this problem is there. I had been to Sweden in a Parliamentary Delegation. But they have a provision of giving unemployment allowance. According to our Indian currency, they get about Rs. 4000 to Rs. 5000 per month by way of Unemployment Allowance. But there the situation is completely different.

There, the total population is less than that of our Calcutta city. There the Government wants sincerely to increase the population. They want the productive parents to oblige the Government in increasing the population. Here, our Government wants our productive parents to oblige them by going in for a small family, sincerely. Many people here do not oblige the Government. So, you see the contrast as to why things are moving like that. In spite of the tremendous achievements which we have made over the years, this problem is assuming serious proportions. Day by day

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it is assuming serious proportions. The figures are very frightening. Every year the number is going up. The number is increasing by about 40 lakhs every year. What will happen now? What is the problem? Why it is going up?

Our educational system is something different. All those who are educated, who are coming out of Alma Mater, most of them, excepting a few whose number can be counted on the finger tips would like to go in for Government and Public Undertakings employment. They seek Government jobs. Hardly you will find, good educated young men go to agriculture, to work in the field or to work even in the rural areas by running any industry. They want white collar jobs or public undertakings or good private undertakings. Unless there is a serious departure, unless there is a revolutionary approach, unless there is some re-thinking in our approach, how can we solve this problem?

Even in communist countries, jobs are not provided to people like this. This is to amend the Constitution by inserting this provision but this will come in confrontation or this will come in for a clash or this will rather contradict the provision so far freedom of profession is concerned. Presently, we have the freedom of profession in our Constitution; and again what is intended to be put here or inserted in the Fundamental Rights Chapter is there in the Directive Principles of State policy but in a different form. It will not be realistic, not practical. Although I am inclined to support it, in principle I oppose this from this point of view, but, certainly, thereby I do not want to undermine the importance, the significance of this Bill. But it requires so many things to be done. We have to make serious efforts in cooperation with all concerned. It has got nothing to do with politics. By all means we have to have small family; we have to contain our population growth. Unless that is done, whatever we do, we cannot solve the problem of unemployment, problem of poverty.

As you know, even the Postgraduates

are now going in for Loader Posts in coalmines. What are the qualification prescribed for a Loader's post? One has to be illiterate. He has to certify that he is illiterate; he also does not know has to put his signatures because he has to work like a coolie inside the mine, in the underground mine, which no educated young man will do. Unemployment is such that he does not get anything to eat also. So, people are coming forward. Even the Graduates are coming forward to openly say that they are illiterate and as such they get into the coalmines as Loaders. But, once, they are appointed, the other day they try to be upgraded as Clerks. This is our own experience. There are so many things. Where there is an advertisement for two posts, you will find that about 1000 people are coming forward. In many places, the authorities are not able to conduct an interview because the rush is so much. Sometimes it takes a violent turn. This is our experience. We have to apply our mind that there has to be dignity of labour manifested in our educational system so that some remedy should be found out. While I talk of this dignity of labour, I am reminded of Gandhian philosophy Gandhian economy.

There he had advised the people to go back to the villages. But now people are deserting the villages and coming over to towns in search of livelihood. You know even in urban areas how slums are being built up making the life miserable. There are so many things. Our educated young men will have to undertake any type of job; even they would like to serve as cultivators, farmers. Unless such an approach is developed, we cannot solve this problem. Of course, it cannot be done overnight and it is something where there has to be a unanimous approach, a national consensus. It could be promoted that way.

There are some suggestions which I would like to give. India is basically an agricultural country. If we have more and more irrigation facilities, then only we only we can make the people to remain in the villages. Otherwise, we find that people desert the dry area and go to the urban area.

But in the irrigated areas where there is

standing crop in the agricultural field, people are always occupied. There also the labourers are well paid, not under-paid. There also we find the labourers from other areas, even outside the State, they flock in. That is the situation. So, more of irrigation, more of energy, more of electrification, more of all these things will go a long way to provide employment in the rural areas at least to those uneducated labour force.

Then in the village industries and cottage industries also we come across some contradictions. We want to promote the handloom sector, we want to promote also the powerloom sector. When pressure is built up on the Government some times so many measures are also taken for the revival of the sick textile industry and these things also clash with each other when it comes to some basic objectives. As a result some thousands or lakhs of weavers are affected. There also they have their own problems and they are not attended to properly. That is why these village industries and cottage industries they will have to be promoted and again somebody was mentioning one family one job. I think my hon. Friend the previous speaker was meaning this but he said, one man, one job. In Indian conditions it is ideal. There are a large number of families where not even a single member is having any substantial job. There is no substantial income for the entire family.

Therefore, we should support this policy of one job, one family. But there are several vacancies. You will find that there are a large number of vacancies, but as a measure of economy, since this is a difficult year, for the last two or three years in certain public undertakings, in Railways and in so many other companies also in Government offices, they are just not filling up the vacancies. Naturally, all these vacancies are to be filled up. Unless they are filled how can the unemployment problem be solved? This also aggregates the problem further.

Again, we have so many programmes to fight out poverty like the IRDP, NREP, RLEGP and so on. We have also linked up banks with these programmes so that bank loans, bank finances can be made available

to the educated unemployed graduates, so that they can run some business. I do not say that the entire scheme has flopped, or that the entire scheme is not working. To a large extent it is not working properly. The desired result is not achieved, because there are so many loopholes which are not being attended to with the seriousness it deserves. How? In this the first thing is the choice of the beneficiaries or the selection of the beneficiaries. It is not proper in some cases. And with some illegal gratifications, with some nasty things going on, bribery etc. also, they are having their own place. In this case also, the BDO and some non-officials are involved. The people's representatives, as you know, have nothing to do with regard to the selection of the beneficiaries. It is prepared by the DICs, the district industries centres, where the MPs and MLAs are associated with it. It is to be chaired by one of the MPs. But, only the list is placed before it for approval. You cannot disapprove it. What is this sort of conduct? What is this approach? We know that in certain cases this is not being properly done. The list of beneficiaries is not being properly drawn up. This should be properly drawn up.

Again, if they take a loan of Rs. 25,000, by the time it reaches the beneficiary, it will be Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 15,000. Naturally an intention develops in the mind of the beneficiary to run away with that money. Even if the purpose underlying this is not achieved, he is encouraged to spend in any manner he likes because 25 per cent of it is taken away in between. Naturally, corruption is raising its ugly head. Corruption and illiteracy are the enemies of our democracy. I welcome the unemployment allowance but how far this can be done in our present circumstances. In the Financial Memorandum attached to this Bill it is estimated that about Rs. 800 crores will be required per annum for giving Rs. 100 to every unemployed person. The number of persons who are unemployed is much larger than the figure we are having. So this will be more than Rs. 800 crores. There are people in Government employment who do not get even Rs. 100. Take the case of barefoot doctors. This scheme was started during Janata Party time. But what is their

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plight? They say that they are regular employees but they get Rs. 50. There are angawadi teachers who are getting less than Rs. 100. We have to do something for them so that they should not feel neglected. We have to provide the unemployed some sort of employment. We have to give them financial support, call it unemployment allowance. Let them go to the villages and let them educate the illiterate persons. Let them be engaged in publicity work, in plantation programmes, in creating social atmosphere in the country in rural areas, to educate about dowry system, bride burning and so many other things. Let them also be gainfully employed in making road in the villages, in clearing tanks. Unless dignity of labour is manifested in education, this problem cannot be solved. We have to teach the students about the Gandhian philosophy. We have to tackle the problem like this on so many fronts.

I thank Shri Thampan Thomas for bringing forward this Bill. By this we get an opportunity to at least apply our mind to this burning topic, to have a discussion and place our views on the record and find out the solution together. Unless we fight out this problem and provide some sort of employment to our educated unemployed, all our achievements in various fields will be negated. This is a very serious menace and we have to get rid of it. This calls for a united approach and a national consensus from all over so that we can positively solve this problem. No problem howsoever serious it may be, is beyond solution.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, I am thankful to my friend and colleague Shri Thampan Thomas for bringing this piece of legislation so that this House can have a loud thinking about the unemployment problem that our country is facing. Unemployment is a very serious problem that is being faced not only by under-developed and developing countries but also by developed nations. The figures given by ILO show that compared to many of the developing and developed countries, our position is much more better. In Spain, there is 22 per cent unemployment; in France, it is

9.72 per cent; in Federal Republic of Germany, it is 9.3 per cent; in United Kingdom, it is 11.9 per cent; and in India it is only 3.04 per cent. Even though this percentage is small, compared to the vast population of our country, the number is very very huge. In March 1985, there were 9.2 million people who were unemployed. Out of these 9.2 million people, 15.88 lakhs were graduates, 2.14 lakhs were handicapped, and 50.98 lakhs were women. It is also conceded that the growth rate of unemployment is four per cent. When we come to 1988, already we have crossed the figure of about or twelve million people who are unemployed...(Interruptions).

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): I think the Member is wrong. In the Economic Survey, which has been presented to us, it is 305 lakhs - more than thirty million. So, somewhere you are mistaken. That I wanted to point out.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: What I am telling is that the growth rate of unemployment is four per cent. This unemployment problem is heavily felt in our major cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. It is seen that 1,500 people are coming everyday to Bombay to find employment. Out of these 1,500 people, about 1,100 people are from Maharashtra and the remaining 400 are from the rest of the country. If this rate goes up by the end of this 20th century, the population of Bombay will increase by 7 million which would bring about the total population of Bombay to about 20 million. Already between 30 and 50 per cent of the population of Bombay are staying in slums. So, this is a very serious situation that is being faced by our metropolitan cities. So, how this problem can be solved? Sir, this also shows how serious the unemployment problem is. Right from the time of Panditji to the time of Indiraji and now during the rule of Rajivji the Congress has taken very effective steps to meet the unemployment problem. Sir, the Leftist parties in this country and other Opposition parties are only doing a lip service to solve the problem. The youth organisations of the CPI(M) and CPI, the DYFI and AIYF are raising the slogan of employment or jail.

They have conducted national bandh, they have blocked the national highways, they have blocked the railways. But these Leftist Parties and other Opposition parties who have come to power from time to time in different States could not arise a finger to solve this problem.

Sir, during the last Assembly election in Kerala one of the promises made by the LDF coalition was that every year 10 lakhs of unemployed youth will be given employment. That means, if the LDF Government in Kerala continues in power for five years, 50 lakhs of unemployed youth will be given employment. That means, the unemployment problem of Kerala will be wiped out. That was a major campaign of the Marxist Party and the LDF partners in Kerala during the last Assembly election. Now, the LDF Government has completed one year. How much employment they have given? We asked how many youngsters were given employment. Now, they say it is a printing mistake and it was not at all included in the Election Manifesto. Again, they say, if the Government of India hands over 50 per cent of the stock of foodgrains stored in the depots of the Food Corporation of India in Kerala to the Government of Kerala freely, then they will find out employment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much unemployment created?

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Unemployment created? Mr. Thomas knows. From almost all Government institutions in Kerala thousands of employed youngsters are sent out. For example, from the Kerala Warehousing Corporation alone, about thousand employed graduates are sent out.

16.59 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

The argument given out by the Government of Kerala is, they are all Congressmen. My humble submission is that if the Congressmen are replaced by

LDF, I would say that I will be happy. But they cannot do it.

17.00 hrs.

So, LDF Government or the Leftist Governments who are in power in different parts of this country could not take any effective steps or solve this major problem. Shri Rajiv Gandhi in his address to the National Development Council in November, 1985 said:

“One of our fundamental priorities is the expansion of employment. We propose to increase employment faster than the growth of labour force. For the first time, in the history of planning not only will there be no current backlog but the previous backlog will also be reduced.”

Shri Rajiv Gandhi, when he took over as the leader of this nation had taken the first pledge to see that unemployment problem was solved to the best of our satisfaction. Now what are the steps taken. In a country like ours, our major work force is in agriculture. We want modernisation. In the agricultural field, we have to bring all the advanced techniques and adopt modern science for development. When modernisation comes, what is the attitude of the Left Parties? That are always against modernisation. They are against computerisation. Why? If any particular Department, if computerisation brings unemployment, they can say so. But in general, how can they be opposed to computerisation. They are opposing it because they are against modernisation. This attitude of the Left Parties against modernisation can be seen from a very long period. When I was a young boy studying in a school in Cochin, I had seen the attitude taken by the Marxist Party. In my city, about 30 years back, we had only rikshaws pulled by men. Then it was replaced by cycle rikshaws. Immediately the Marxist Party opposed it saying that it would cause unemployment. Later, these cycle rikshaws were replaced by auto rikshaws. Again they opposed it and said, it would cause unemployment. For all types of modernisation and advanced technology, the Left Parties are against. Similarly, in the paddy field, when the bullock tillers

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were replaced by mechanised tillers, not only Marxist Party opposed it but they physically prevented the mechanised tillers from putting into use.

This shows that when the Congress Government led by Shri Rajiv Gandhi is earnest in solving the burning problem of unemployment by modernising the industry and the agricultural sector, many of the so-called Leftist Parties who vehemently argue for the employment of the youth and who use the youth for their political purposes never assist the youth. In Kerala, what did they do? Before they came to power, they gave the slogan "Employment for all". They have come back to power now. What do they say now? They say that people must form into a human chain. They ask them to hold their hands together from Trivandrum to Kasergode. This is the employment they give.

But, on the other hand, the Congress Party was always earnest to provide employment to people.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN (Alleppey): Do you know that our traditional industries in Kerala are migrating to the neighbouring States because Marxist party is opposing the modernisation in the State and cheaper products are made due to modernisation in the neighbouring States?

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: It is a question which Mr. Thampan Thomas knows very well. In the traditional industries like cashew and coir, the majority of work has gone to Tamilnadu and Karnataka. Whenever we bring modernisation, the Marxist party is against it. At the time of Karunakaran Ministry, when this suggestion was put forward, Marxist workers threatened strike. Now I ask the present Industries Minister Gowriamma to start modernisation in coir industries and cashew industry so that they will not go to Tamilnadu or Karnataka. Same is the case of West Bengal and Kerala. If there are more unemployed, it is only because of the attitude and the policy of the Marxist party.

How can we solve unemployment? The clerk system in our country was brought by the British and the British had only one thing in mind, to have their clerks in their company.

Now a new nation is born. We have to march forward. We have to change our education system.

When Shri Rajiv Gandhi came to power, his attempt was half a new education policy. We have got our Navodaya schools and new education policy. What is the attitude of many of the opposition political parties? They oppose these Navodaya schools and the new education policy saying that it is bound to create two types of citizens. But, really what should be our system of education? Can we simply produce graduates and post-graduates? One of my friends was saying that more graduates and post-graduates are now trying to get even manual work. In Kerala, my friend Mr. Thampan Thomas knows.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: He knows the whole truth. He is not a Marxist.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: His soul is with us and his body is with them. The graduates and the post-graduates are working as conductors in the buses. This is the position. We have to change the entire education system. It should be a job-oriented education system. Those students who are par-excellent they can go up. They can become post-graduates. But there are people of mediocre standard. You have to find employment for them. In a State like Kerala where unemployment is an acute problem, we cannot get a good carpenter and a good mason. In Kerala, the wage of a Carpenter is to the tune of Rs. 60/- per day and of a mason Rs. 65/- per day. We are not getting good carpenters and good masons. Similarly I had my own problem. A few months back my VCR has got some damage. It was not working. I took it to one of the repairing shops in Delhi. They charged me about Rs. 2,500/- I gave this amount.

But, after a few days again, the problem

started, I called one of my friends who is an expert and an engineer. He looked into it and found that there was nothing wrong with it. He put a washer or something like that. I paid only Rs 150/- for the entire thing. So, when modern devices are coming, we have to train our youngsters. We have got TV, we have got VCR and other machines which are used by the people. But just to repair these modern machines and devices, we do not have properly educated, properly trained people, youngsters. So, this is one of the areas where our youngsters can be trained. We have got our agricultural sector. Our economy is an agriculture-based economy. How much we are advancing in it? Still, in many of the States of this country, we are making use of natural manures. We are not making use of fertilisers etc, we are not making use of proper irrigation system. Therefore we have to go on those lines, so that our agriculture flourishes. Along with agriculture, there are other allied fields of activity. We have got 200 kms of our economic zone in the sea. There is a very vast potential of fishing. But what about our fishing industry? It is not yet developed. The fishing boats and trawlers from Japan and South Korea are coming to Arabian sea or Bay of Bengal and catch the fishes, go back to Singapore and sell there with big margins. Fishing is the major sector, where we can train our youngsters. They can be given financial aids through our banks and they can be helped. The other point is that many of our women who are educated in our college do not know how to catch an egg. Poultry is one of the fields where our young women can be trained. They can get a good profit. Even bee-keeping is another major field and we have to concentrate on it. If we take different fields in agriculture itself, I find it that it is not all difficult to give employment to our youngsters.

Next, coming to Planning, I would like to say that planning has to start at the grass-root level. Now, our Prime Minister has called the District Collectors and Magistrates for a meeting in order to find out how the planning can be started from district-level. But what is the attitude of many of our Opposition political parties. They say that the Prime Minister is going to ha-

pass the State Government and the Prime Minister is going to have direct control over these District Collectors and District Magistrates. To the question whether the Prime Minister has the right to have direct control, I would like to say that he has got the right, he has got the right to talk direct with the people concerned to find out how the Planning can be started atleast at the District-level. If only we start our Planning at the lower-level and at the grass-root level, then alone we can find out effective solutions for the major burning problem like unemployment. Ours is a country which has so much tourist potential. But we could not make use of it. If something is talked of tourism, people abroad things about Kashmir and Goa. But our entire country from Cape Comorin to the Himalayas is full of tourist attraction. But we do not make use of that tourist potential. If we make an earnest attempt to attract the tourists from abroad, I am sure that will be another way of finding a solution to our unemployment problem. Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government has brought forward a number of schemes which will give ample employment opportunities to the unemployed youngsters. One such scheme is the Self-Employment Scheme. Any unemployed boy who is a matriculate, can get Rs 25000/- from any nationalised bank. There is nothing to give. There is no Guarantee.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Provided your slip is there.

PROF. KV THOMAS: Your slip is also good. Just send a slip and find out whether a matriculate gets Rs 25000/- or not. This is the attitude. This is the problem with you. You don't want that these unemployed people are employed. You just want unemployed people so that you can make use of them for political purposes. Here any matriculate who is desirous of doing any work, he can just walk into any nationalised bank and get Rs 25000. With that he can start a small industry by which he can earn Rs 20 to Rs 25 a day. This is something which the Government has done.

Now about the loan meals. Sir, the women folk from the fishermen areas,

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women folk the traditional industries, if they can get Rs. 5000 on Rs. 10,000 from loan meals, I think that will help them Kerala, is facing acute unemployment and actually half of the Kerala population is now outside Kerala--even in Delhi, we have got three to four lakh Keralites. Even in Kerala, what is the attitude of the present Government towards loan meals? On the one side they say that the employment opportunities have to be given to unemployed youth. On the other side they say: "we are against the loan meals, we do not want loan meals, "Poojary give money congressmen" when Poojary comes and given money not only to the youngsters who may have some faith and confidence, in congress party, but also together. There are a large number of youngsters who do not believe in any political parties and they are also given. So when loan meals are conducted the benefit goes to the poor. But even those loan meals are being opposed. That is why, I telling that when Rajiv Gandhi's Government is in right earnest in finding out the solution for unemployment problem, then also these leftist are dead against it. Sir, some of my friends are telling about unemployment assistance. Personally speaking, I am dead against it because it is Kerala which started this unemployment assistance scheme. You are giving Rs. 50 or Rs. 55 to an unemployed youth, what is the use of that amount? Mere Rs. 50 to Rs. 55 is not going to help the unemployed youth. Instead of that I can agree with Mr. Thampan Thomas that you can pay Rs. 100. But let them do some job, some specific job like educating the old people. What Marxist Government in Kerala is asking the youth "you catch a mad dog, you can get employment." That is the slogan now. The UDF Government in Kerala says: you go and catch the mad dog." What I am suggesting is that you can give Rs. 100 to do a specific job. You educate the workers in the rural areas. You educate the old women folk in the Fisherman village or in a coir village. Some specific job can be given and then given them some payment. Otherwise, just giving unemployment assistance without any job, it is

going to be a curse on a coming generation.

Before I conclude, I have got one point. When we face the problem of unemployment, it should be above the party lines. Congress Party is always prepared for this. But it is the leftist party and other political parties which do not have a clear idea as to how this problem can be faced. Now a stage has come when all the major political parties in the country have to sit together in a table and think about how this problem can be effectively faced. I think, this Bill which has been brought forward by my friends Shri Thampan Thomas, even though that cannot be practically implemented, at least, it has given a lot of opportunity to think aloud about this major problem facing our country and other countries outside.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Mr. Chairman Sir, first of all, I would congratulate my colleague Mr. Thampan Thomas for bringing this Private Members' Bill to enable a lively discussion to take place in this august House.

The Bill brings in for discussion a very important item which is causing concern not only to the Union Government, but to all the State Governments in our country. Unemployment is not altogether a new phenomenon to our country. As my predecessor speaker Prof. Thomas has said, unemployment is there even in advanced countries. But the unemployment and the under-employment levels in our country are quite alarming.

You are quite aware, due to unemployment as well as under-employment, there are reports of several starvation deaths in some State like Orissa. You are also aware that due to poverty, due to unemployment and due to lack of purchasing power, several hundreds of people die during the winter months in northern states in the absence of adequate cloth to protect themselves.

I don't know how my friends has arrived at the figure of 3% unemployed in our country. Leaving the persons who are not

registered with Employment Exchanges, it comes to 5%. It is more than 30 million. Because of illiteracy and lack of communication and road facilities, several people who are unemployed in the villages, in the far-flung corners of this country are not accustomed to registering their names in Employment Exchanges. If all such factors are taken into consideration, the number of unemployed will be much more than this 30 million. Out of this 30 million unemployed, merely 2.5 millions are graduates and post-graduates. The number of persons who have passed higher-secondary course are more than 3.5 million. The total number of people who are literates, i.e. who can write and read, if such people are also taken into consideration, it will be around 15 million unemployed in the country.

But the disturbing trend is, while there is an increase of 2.0% in just a matter of about three months from 1st January 1986, during the same period the total number of vacancies notified by various employers in public sector as well as private sector to Employment Exchanges have declined from 1.62 lakhs to 1.43 lakhs — registering a declining trend in the employment opportunities available in the country.

The employment in public sector has gone up from 17.58 million in December 1985 to 17.68 million in March 86. But the employment in the private sector has decreased from 7.43 million in December 1985 to 7.36 million in March, 1986. That means in one year the figure instead of going up has come down.

The annual rate of unemployment has increased among the educated - graduate and post-graduates. It is now around 17 per cent. The number of placements is less than 10 per cent of the total number of registrations in a particular period.

Sir, this large-scale unemployment is leading to several distortion in the economy of our country. Because of this restlessness is increasing. The youth who are educated but unemployed are resorting to wrong acts. We see the disturbing reports of dacoities on the periphery of

urban areas where youth are trying to loot the inmates taking away all valuables.

Sir, many youths in several parts of the country are being attracted towards Naxalism. In the hostels of many engineering and medical college some people who are committed to that line of thinking are succeeding in winning over the hearths of several other students telling them that there is no opportunity for them in the coming years to get employment. Like that they are attracting them towards Naxalism and the moment they come out they go to the forests and resort to naxalite activities.

This is after 40 years of self-rule. Unfortunately, either credit or discredit goes to the ruling party because barring 30 months of Janata Rule it is only the Congress (I) which has been ruling this country. So either the credit of giving some jobs to some people or discredit of creating so much unemployment goes to the ruling party. This is not to criticise the party. I am telling it with agony. Unfortunately because the successive governments have ignored the advice of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, we have to face this situation. Mahatma Gandhi advocated Charkha as a symbol of self-employment. He was a great thinker and had studied different political and economic philosophies and the way in which countries had development from the socialist pattern as well as free economy like in USA and Britain. With great forethought, he clearly stated his views that he was not against industrialisation or modernisation. In fact, he welcomed modernisation. But at the same time, he made it amply clear that he was against such industrialisation or such industrial policy which would render thousands or lakhs of people jobless. Such industrial policies which throw several people, who are already doing their own job through self-employment, into the streets jobless. In fact, he quoted some examples like sewing machines. He welcomed them to the extent where human labour can be supplemented or these machines can be of some help in carrying out the job.

I don't say that the policies were intentionally adopted. The intention was quite

[Shri V. Sobhanadreesware Rao]

good right from the time of late Prime Minister, Mr Jawaharlal Nehru. But unfortunately due to certain wrong policies, in practice, what has happened is that some lakhs of cobblers living in several lakhs of villages have now become unemployed whereas very very large multinational companies or some large industrial houses with huge investments are entering into shoe-making or *chappal*-making. I wonder why should big multinationals be allowed to continue the manufacture of even cosmetics like powder or toothpaste which are small items of our daily use. Why are such items not prepared in small scale sector, cottage industries, in handloom industries, in *khadi* and village industries sector?

When China with nearly a population of 90 crores is able to provide employment to all its people, why our country is failing in that aspect? My only appeal to the Government is to reconsider and make an in-depth study at least now after 40 years as to what we should do. Where does the wrong lie? This is not to criticise the ruling party or Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's Government that we are saying these words. My information is that in China several thousand mini-steel plants spread over the length and breadth of that country, supply steel to the country. But in our country only few steel factories like Bokaro, Durgapur, Rourkela, etc, are supplying steel. Somebody may argue that if we run the mini-steel industry in the small scale sector, the steel prices will be beyond the reach of the common man. But can anybody say that the price of steel produced in any of these plants is at least nearer the price of steel manufactured in Japan or in any other country? Our steel prices are much more than the steel prices in other countries.

Similarly, there are several units in China which are producing inorganic fertilisers and supply them to the farmers in their respective areas. The main question here is how long will you keep these people unemployed like this? For how many more decades the rural people, who are

under-employed, have to wait for full employment? Should we not take a serious view of the situation? If necessary, bring some change in the economic, industrial and fiscal policies. In this context, we have to congratulate the Government of Maharashtra which has taken up the Employment Guarantee Scheme since 1972. There may be some lapse. I do not deny. In a new effort or experiment, some mistakes do creep in but we have to congratulate their bold efforts to implement a scheme to provide employment to some people who demand some work. It is not a dole. It cannot be treated as a dole. The persons who is receiving that small amount of money has put his effort in the construction of road or bunds to the land or digging a well or construction of some other assets for the benefit of the society. Sir, I appeal to the Government to have a thorough study as to how the scheme was implemented, what are its positive contributions where certain lapses are there, how such lapses can be prevented, how corruption or misdeeds or some such things can be prevented. A mechanism can be invented to implement such scheme which will be foolproof. In this context, Karnataka as well as Tamil Nadu have passed some legislative measures and have taken their efforts in some blocks if not all. So, I appeal to the Members, irrespective of the political differences, to support this Private Member Resolution moved by Sh. Thampan Thomas. The Government should not think that because it is moved by an Opposition Member, it should be opposed. Instead they should support it and in the coming times, the Government should think seriously and formulate as how this Employment Guarantee Scheme can be started with the assistance of the Union Government. This measure will certainly help in reducing unemployment and under-employment, which is prevalent in the rural areas. It will reduce the dependency of the poor people belonging to the weaker sections over the rich people and the landlords. It will give some self-respect to those people, the poor down-trodden people who are suppressed all these decades. Apart from that, this scheme definitely will contribute to some extent in creation of durable assets for the society. NREP, RLEGP

and ITDA and some such programmes are very good in their work for the development of rural areas and the betterment of socio-economic conditions of the rural people. This will also supplement the efforts taken. My main submission is that basically some change should be brought in the educational set-up. When an engineer or a technician or a diploma holder comes out of the institute, he does not have that much confidence that he can stand on his own legs. My suggestion is apart from undergoing training and theory these people should be given more practical orientation. The Government should issue instructions that the local needs of the particular area, or the industries situated near an engineering college or a polytechnic or an IIT should be considered and some items, not sophisticated items, required for those industries should be made in the foundry of that engineering college or the polytechnic institute. These items can be made in these institutions while the students are undergoing training. This would give practical training to these students. As is prevalent in other countries, they would earn while acquiring knowledge. That type of educational system should take firm roots in our country.

As Prof. Thomas said there is need to give training for the work of masons and carpenters and other type of artisans instead of turning out a large number of granulates in arts or commerce. That type of education has no relevance today and is of no use. There should be some sort of education about agriculture at the intermediate or degree level as is done in several Agricultural Colleges in Uttar Pradesh. Unfortunately, in South India, we have a small number of agricultural colleges; we have more college which turn out graduates in arts, commerce etc. The degree is of no use to the son of a farmer who has five or ten acres of land. But if he learns something about agriculture, it will be of some help.

Sir, more funds should be earmarked for agriculture, irrigation, rural development and house building activities. Instead of capital intensive industries, if the Government provides more funds for small scale sector for Khadi and Village industries, I

think, the unemployment problem will be reduced considerably; it may not be completely overcome. It will provide opportunities to a large number of people for employment; those people who have spent some amount and a precious part of their life in some institution or the other. It would be able to stand on their legs and carry on a decent life.

I once again appeal to all the Member to support the Bill before the House. I hope, the Government will come forward with a scheme in the 8th Plan on the lines of employment guarantee scheme of Maharashtra.

With these words, I thank you, Sir, for having given me time to speak on this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Mr. Speaker, I support the bill brought forward in this august House by Shri Thampan Thomas. So far as the question of unemployment in the country is concerned, our Govt. has been trying to provide employment to the people of the whole country through planned methods and as a result thereof people have been provided employment under the various scheme which are going on in rural areas throughout country. People from opposition parties also accepted that the policy of govt. to eradicate unemployment is very praiseworthy

So far as the question of this country and the educated people of the country is concerned, education primarily means to prepare the people to work. The education should not be confined to become a clerk. A suggestion has been made that different types of industries can be established by our youths, which can benefit our country. The nation can move further. So far as the question of establishing industries is concerned, first of all I will make a suggestion that in the states where industries are established, unemployed youth of the same place should be accommodated so that the local boys and girls could be trained in the work undertaken by the factories.

[Shri K.D. Sultanpuri]

Our hilly areas lack in industries. Electronic industry can be set-up there. Unemployed people in those areas have to travel very far to register their names in employment exchanges. If they have an interview somewhere or a Central Government department calls them for interview, they are not able to reach there. Banks in our country are sources of employment for unemployed people. But people from big cities in the plains are sent to work in banks located in hilly areas. They think that if they do not serve the people properly they will be transferred back to the plains. It is generally believed that a transfer to the hills is a form of punishment. I shall suggest that if people of hilly areas, be they from Garhwal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Mizoram or Sikkim, are to be given employment in banks or public undertakings they should be given adequate importance. This way they will not be at a disadvantage as compared to others.

My contention is that in people from hilly areas are not represented fully in any public undertaking, be it Air-India, Railways and other Public undertakings. In every department there is a backlog in terms of quota reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Uptil now we have not been able to decide the time by which we will finish this backlog.

I suggest that this practice be stopped and a policy to provide employment be formulated. This way the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can get employment. It has been said that these days schools in hilly areas are Backing teachers. The teachers who are appointed in middle or high schools there, are more interested in getting a transfer. The same situation exists everywhere in the country. They do not want to live in rural areas. It is very hard to find educated people among the rural population who can teach people in villages.

Recently our hon. Prime Minister has taken a very good step wherein attempts

are being made to set up Navodaya Schools in every one of our districts. This is a praise-worthy step of course this may take 15 years but ultimately the nation can boast of having a good, well-educated and mature citizenry. I feel that this is a step in the right direction. As to the question of providing employment, the Government of India has tried to generate employment through its five-year plans. From 1949 till the present year, 1988, there has been no change in the role played by this policy within the larger framework of the plans. The Government of India is following the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi. All tasks are being accomplished in keeping with their guidelines. I want to say that in many States educated people were provoked and exploited. It is well known what was told to young people during the Janta rule. The youngsters were asked to make out with shoe-shining. The Janta Government claimed to have no money for the young because there was large-scale hunger and poverty in the country. We are going to Parliament from where we will realise the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi. They even took an oath at Mahatma Gandhi's Samadhi saying that they had come to Bapu with a pledge to serve the weak and downtrodden people of our nation. But after two-and-a-half years their rule came to an end. And with that ended their pledge and their promise to provide livelihood to people. They were themselves demoralized. And in their demoralization lay the shattered hopes of young men and women who were unable to get any means of livelihood.

The same thing has happened in our neighbouring state. Elections were held in Haryana some days back. That area lies in our neighbourhood. People there were told that if they requested a waiver of amounts as much as Rs. 20,000, the Chief Minister would sign his approval.

They promised to write off all loans. They also said that unemployed people whose names are registered with employment exchanges would be given to-and-fro fare for appearing at interviews and related examinations. But all these promises re-

mained confined to the election period only. On being elected they forgot all their promises. Even where they have written off the loans several co-operative societies went bankrupt. They even made certain attempts which might have led to the failure of several banks. I should say that strict action must be taken against a government which misleads its people and weakens the society.

Our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had and our present Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi is serving the people with a whole-hearted dedication. He continues to work for the upliftment of the nation. But it is beyond comprehension why our colleagues in the opposition remain blind to all this. Even wrong political movements are being encouraged by members of our opposition parties. It is only due to Shri Rajiv Gandhi's efforts that education is being encouraged in our country!

Our colleagues in the opposition make tall claims about removing unemployment. But for this purpose they are not able to bring together all small parties on one platform. This type of an atmosphere should not prevail in the country. It is our Congress Party alone which can solve this problem of unemployment.

Our Congress Party has its goal. It is carrying the country forward and serving it continuously. Shri Rajiv Gandhi is fulfilling the dream realised by Mahatma Gandhi for the development of the country. The people of the country elected us for a five year term with thumping majority. During these five years for the growth of the nation we will vigorously implement the schemes formulated for the development of the country.

I would like to cite an example. During the Janata Party rule, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh often visited Delhi. They used to fight among themselves in order to become the Prime Minister of the country. I blame the opposition for trying to disrupt the unity of the country. Opposition has used the nation for furthering its own interests. At present also many small parties of the opposition are represented in this

August House. Country incurs a great loss when someone crosses over to the opposition side after violating the party discipline. If we want to carry the country forward it is necessary to follow some sort of rules. You say that unemployment allowance be paid to unemployed. This is totally unjustified, because people will stop working and will become lethargic. All of us should think the matters in keeping country's interest in mind and discuss them seriously among ourselves, as also steps should be taken for the development of the country.

Now I would like to say something about my hilly areas. During the debate on Railway Budget I will speak in detail about laying of railway lines there. But right now I would like to state that no railway lines have been laid except the railway lines laid by the Britishers which is still in use. Decision had already been taken to complete the railway line in the jungles of Talwara which is lying incomplete for the last 10 to 15 years. The people of my state are industrious and despite drought they are working hard and cannot be seen begging anywhere. Licences are issued to big industrial houses for setting up industries, who bring with them labourers from outside. In all the border areas be it Punjab or Haryana or U.P. factories set by the outsider industrialists are full of outsider labourers who create disturbances in the areas. Industries owned by the people of the Himachal Pradesh are negligible. This has resulted in nonconstruction of hostels in Himachal Pradesh for boys and girls by industrialists. I request the Government of India to add one more clause to the licences being issued for setting up industries in the border areas so as to make it obligatory to for them to employ local people in the factories, so that the people keep a vigil on the activities of terrorists and keep them at bay. This clause should be inserted to enable local people to secure employment in these industries. How many people can be employed in Government job? To my mind, not many Britishers have only Produced Babus for Government jobs and now people do not consider any other work as a job except becoming Babus in Government Of-

[Shri K.D. Sultanpuri]

fices. We can utilise the available brain power and through training within the country, transform them into technical hands for the rapid development of the nation.

No useful purpose will be served by merely keeping the country in a state of agitation and calling the unemployed to march to Boat Club to raise slogan of eradicating unemployment by the parties who mushroom as many as 44-45 in number for collecting donations for election. After their defeat in the election, they will found nowhere, as they have no programme for taking the country forward. It is the Congress Party alone which could take the country forward. No other party can do this. I do agree that this resolution sounds well; when Shri Thomas and persons belonging to well off families demand to give dole of Rs. 100. But the rest of the hon. Members like me would advocate creation of jobs instead of payment of unemployment allowance. If you want to make such

laws you can do it at your sweet will but I do not support this. However, I support the efforts of the Government to provide jobs to the people.

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera): I felicitate Shri Thampan Thomasji for moving this Bill which is in accordance with the need of the hour.

[English]

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras Central): I have also given my name, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes; I know, but not today. Mr Paswan, you can continue next time. The House is now adjourned.

18.00 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Eleven of the Clock on Monday,  
February 29, 1988/Phalgun 10, 1909 (Sak*

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