

12.02 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE
ADEQUATE JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR
ENGINEERING GRADUATES**

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI (Madhurai):

Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Education to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

Failure of the Government to provide adequate job opportunity for engineering graduates leading to widespread agitation followed by arrests in Delhi on the 12th February, 1968.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN): Sir, Unemployment among engineering graduates and diploma-holders that was practically non-existent several years ago, has become acute since last year because of the current recession in industry, postponement of Fourth Five-Year Plan projects and other reasons beyond the control of our technical institutions. Last year, our technical institutes produced about 13,000 graduate engineers and about 21,620 diploma technicians. According to the reports available, over 50 per cent of these technical personnel are without employment. This year, the number of fresh engineering graduates trained is estimated at about 14,750 and that of diploma technicians about 25,000. A majority of these technical personnel also are reported to be unemployed. The live registers of DGET, however, show that about 7,000 graduate-engineers and about 28,300 diploma technicians are unemployed as on 31st December, 1967. To add to the gravity of the situation, a number of State Governments are reported to have retrenched large numbers of engineers and technicians employed on projects that have been completed or are nearing completion, and are proposing to further retrench

drastically the personnel already in employment. For instance, in Andhra Pradesh over 1,500 engineers are reported to have been retrenched since last year. These circumstances have created almost a panic among our engineering graduates and diploma-holders.

Since 1951-52, the Education Ministry, in consultation with the Planning Commission and State Governments, undertook a big programme of expansion of technical education at all levels from one successive Plan to another. During each Plan period, new technical institutions were established and existing institutions expanded on the basis of the estimated demand for technical personnel. It takes at least five years to train an engineering graduate and nearly 7-8 years to fully establish a technical institute. Therefore, facilities for the training of technical personnel have had to be created at least five years ahead of the actual time when the technical personnel were needed for various development projects under each Five-Year Plan.

The process of developing technical education has gone on on these lines from one Plan to another. For the Third Plan, we had set a target of 25,000 annual admissions to degree course and 50,000 annual admissions to diploma courses on the basis of the estimated demand for technical personnel for the Fourth Plan. The demand was estimated generally in relation to the projected economic growth rate. These targets of the Third Plan have been reached for degree courses and, today, our institutions are now admitting about 26,000 students each year. For diploma courses, the present admissions are about 48,000 students. On the basis of these admissions, the output of engineering graduates and diploma-holders will increase from year to year from this year's figure of 14,750 graduates and 25,000 diploma-holders to about 22,400 graduates and

about 30,000 diploma-holders in 1970. The number of engineering institutions conducting the first degree courses at present is 138 and that of Polytechnics is 288.

Because of the present unemployment situation and other reasons, we have decided not to expand facilities for technical education at the degree and diploma levels till some definite assurance is available regarding the Fourth and Fifth Plans, and their demand for technical personnel.

In view of the present situation, it is important and urgent for the Central Government and State Governments to consider how best to solve unemployment problem of engineering graduates and diploma-holders who have already come out of technical institutes and of those who are already studying at our institutions and expected to come out in the next four-five years.

In view of this situation, I have personally taken up the whole matter with the Planning Commission, and suggested that a conference of all the authorities concerned should be convened immediately to devise ways and means of utilising the services of engineering graduates and diploma-holders.

I am told the Planning Commission is considering the matter and they will be shortly making their recommendations to the Government.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: Sir, I have heard the Education Minister's statement with the attention that it deserves. But I find that he has given us only those facts which are known to everyone. We know the recession in industry and we know the present economic situation in the country. What the Government proposes to do to solve unemployment problem, we are left woefully in the dark. All that has been vouchsafed is that, for the present, the Government has decided not to expand technical education and engineering education. But what about those persons who are al-

ready unemployed? What about those thousands and thousands of persons who are going to come out of these engineering institutions that already exist? What are you going to do for them?

Today, our Government is entering into collaboration agreements where turn-key jobs are being done by our people. Take, for example, the chemical industry. Today, our engineers are capable of putting up their own fertiliser plants in the country. It has been admitted by the Minister himself. We are capable of doing that. In spite of that, we go in for collaboration agreements whereby turn-key plans are being brought here. Any amount of holding conferences with the Planning Commission, and other people, will not help. How can you think of solving unemployment problem when you are going to get only turn-key plans from foreign countries for your projects?

Then, the failure of the Plan is being said to be the main reason. The people were told that this country is under a planned economic development. The hopes were raised among the people. The Government has got a responsibility because it is on the basis of these hopes raised by the Government, on the basis of their advertised Plan, that not only they got the votes but also raised high hopes among the people. Thousands of poor families had to borrow money to spend for the education of their children for five long years and they are indebted now. Under the circumstances, does the Government not feel its moral responsibility to see to it that, if these people are unemployed, that they are kept going? Does the Government think it necessary to have a pool of these engineers and see that they are given some unemployment dole at least? Will the Government at least do these things? My second question is this. My question related also to arrests in Delhi. After all, when these people have come here to demonstrate and to request the

[Shri P. Ramamurti]

Government to do something for them, the answer that the Government gives is, "put them in the Tehar Jail". What does the Government propose to do with them? Is the Government going to continue to keep them in jail or is the Government going to release them immediately and discuss with them how exactly they propose to solve the problem?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: You will agree that the main responsibility of the Education Ministry is to organize and develop facilities for technical education and training according to the demand for engineers and technicians from various employing authorities. The Ministry has fulfilled this responsibility so far on the basis of the manpower projections given by the Planning Commission, Directorate of Manpower, Ministry of Home Affairs and other authorities. It is not that we are in the Ministry sitting idle on this. I can draw the attention of the House to this fact also. In addition to referring the matter to the Planning Commission to guide us in the matter about the technical manpower requirements in future, we ourselves, during this period, have taken various measures to meet the situation. We have provided about 3,500 to 4,000 places for practical training in industry with stipends and we are trying to increase them now so that the graduates may be put in the industry for training. We have also provided facilities for post-graduate studies and research for the best students and they have been expanded; about 2,000 such places have been created with stipend, scholarship, etc. So, we are at it; we are trying to solve the problem so far as our Ministry is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: What about the second aspect?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: My Ministry cannot do that.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai): From the statement made by the hon. Minister it is evident that quite a

large number of engineering graduates as also diploma-holders are unemployed in this country; 7,000 engineering graduates and some 20,000 diploma-holders are unemployed in this country, according to the statement made by the hon. Minister, as far as I can remember. The hon. Minister has said that he is in touch with the Planning Commission. But unfortunately the Planning Commission does not have a manpower budget. In that context, may I know (a) if the Planning Commission has a manpower budget, why is it that his Ministry has produced so many graduates and has raised the problem of unemployment in this country; and (b) whether the unemployed engineering graduates have submitted a Memorandum to him where they have made a number of suggestions and one of the suggestions is that the Government should create an unemployment pool with Rs. 300 per head for the unemployed engineers and diploma-holders and if so, whether the Government has given any consideration to that?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: Regarding (a), it is not the intention of the Ministry of Education to train engineering graduates to create unemployment. Regarding (b), we have received the Memorandum. Along with many other suggestions, we are considering that suggestion also.

SHRI HEM BARUA: My question (a) was very specific. If the Planning Commission had the manpower budget, why is it that his Ministry has trained graduates in excess of the demand as projected by the Planning Commission?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tyagi.

श्री श्री प्र० त्यागी (मुरादाबाद) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो स्टेटमेंट मिनिस्टर महोदय ने दिया है उससे यह प्रकट होता है कि मिनिस्टर महोदय को इस बात का ज्ञान नहीं है कि कितने इंजीनियरों इस देश में बेकार पड़े हैं। उनको इस बात का भी ज्ञान नहीं है कि फोर्स फाइव

ईयर प्लान में कितने इंजीनियर्स की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी और कितने अभी बेकार हैं। उन के स्टेटमेंट के अनुसार 30 हजार प्रेज्युएट्स और 50 हजार डिप्लोमा होल्डर्स वह प्रति वर्ष पैदा कर रहे हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि एजूकेशन मिनिस्टर महोदय ने अपनी जिम्मेदारी को दूर करने की कोशिश की है यह कह कर कि मेरा काम तैयार करने का है, कहां खपेंगे, मैं नहीं जानता। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह सवाल होल मिनिस्ट्री का है, पूरी गवर्नमेंट का है और गवर्नमेंट को इस बात को स्वीकार करना चाहिए कि हम ने इन नवजवानों को बेकार कर के उन के जीवन के साथ खिलवाड़ किया है और यह बड़े खेद की बात है।

(व्यश्चान) मैं उनसे पूछना चाहता हूँ, अभी उन्होंने जवाब दिया है

(व्यश्चान) यह नवजवानों के जीवन का सवाल है। अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सवाल करना चाहता हूँ कि बीस पांच वर्षीय योजना का प्राल्प तैयार हो रहा था तो एजूकेशन मिनिस्टर साहब को या प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर साहब को इस से पूर्व कब यह सूचना मिली, कब उन्हें यह जानकारी हुई और कब उन्होंने यह जानकारी दी कि इतने इंजीनियर्स इस प्रकार से बेकार होने को हैं ?

दूसरी बात मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार जो बेकार इंजीनियर्स हैं उनकी अपनी भूल के कारण जो बेकार किए गए हैं जब तक उनको नौकरी न दे सके तब तक बेकारी भत्ता देने के लिए तैयारी कर रही है?

तीसरे, क्या सरकार जो बेकार इंजीनियर्स हैं उनको अपने आप ऐसा कोई धन्दा शुरू करने के लिए कोई सहायता या कर्जा देने की कोई स्कीम सोच रही है जिस से वह अपना धन्दा शुरू कर सकें ?

शिक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री यशवत झा आखाब) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इन सभी प्रश्नों पर विचार किया जा रहा है। यह बात सच है कि बेरोजगार का प्रश्न देश

के सामने है। लेकिन अभी हम इस बात पर विचार नहीं कर सकते हैं कि कोई प्लान बना कर हम हर एक को भत्ता दे सकें। यह अभी सम्भव नहीं है।

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Ambalapuzha): The hon Minister has admitted that it is a very grave problem. But he has expressed his inability to give them employment. I would like to ask him why he was not prepared to meet the representatives of those who are unemployed and have a discussion with them and find out ways and means how these people can be employed. Instead of doing that, Government have arrested them and put them in prison. Is that the way to deal with the problem? When the problem is acute, it is the duty of Government to see that some concrete steps are taken to find out the means to give them employment. Will Government have a discussion with those who are aggrieved and find out a way? Some proposals are there to give them some loans to start some industries. If they take such initiative why can Government not consider those proposals so as to get them employment in such industries?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I never refuse to meet anybody. As a matter of fact, I met lots of boys in my house, and I explained to them the position, and I explained to them what we were thinking and what possible employment opportunities we could create. They had understood me and they agreed that they would go back to their studies. I am prepared to meet anybody.

SHRI VISWANATHA MEMON (Ernakulam): What about loans? Are Government prepared to give them loans?

श्री रान चरण (मुर्जा) : जैसा मिनिस्टर साहब ने अभी फरमाया 60 हजार से ऊपर प्रेज्युएट्स, डिप्लोमा होल्डर्स, और

सिस्टम बगैरह अनएम्प्लायमेंट है और बहुत बड़ी समस्या है। लेकिन वर्तकस्थिति यह है इस गवर्नमेंट की कि जब तक इसको हट नहीं किया जाता तब तक इसके कान पर जू नहीं रेंगती, इसलिए उन्होंने हड़ताल की और मुमकिन है कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान में हड़ताल हो, उसकी भी संभावना है। लिहाजा मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि बाप ने रिटायरमेंट की एज को बढ़ा कर 55 से 58 साल किया इन्वीनियर्स बयैरह की और उस के बाद 60 साल तक एम्प्लॉयमेंट देते हैं अगर प्लानिब कमीशन या गवर्नमेंट इस बातके ऊपर सोचती कि इन्वीनियर्स की कम्प्लेफाइड सर्विस 25 वर्ष हो उस के बाद उन का रिटायरमेंट हो जाय जिससे कि जो ट्रेनिंग पा रहे हैं उन को सर्विस मिल सके तो इस समस्या का बहुत हद तक समाधान हो सकता था। गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया में तो 25 परसेंट इंजीनियर्स और आफिसर्स ऐसे हैं जो एज पार हो चुके हैं लेकिन उनकी अप्रोच ऐसी है कि वह बराबर एम्प्लॉयमेंट पाते रहते हैं। तो अगर इन को बन्द किया जाय और 25 साल की सर्विस के बाद उन को रिटायर किया जाये तो मैं समझना हूँ कि इसमें से 50 परसेंट को एम्प्लॉयमेंट मिल सकता है।

दूसरे मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि एक कमीशन बैठाया जाय जो इस बात की एम्प्लायरी करे कि इन के अनएम्प्लॉयमेंट की वजह क्या है किस वजह से इतने आदमी बेकार हैं।

तीसरे—क्या गवर्नमेंट यह करने को तैयार है कि जब तक उनको एम्प्लॉयमेंट नहीं मिल जाती, चूँकि उन्होंने जेवर बेच कर या कर्जा लेकर ट्रेनिंग हासिल की है इसलिए तब तक उन को कुछ एम्प्लॉयमेंट स्टाइफंड दिया जाय? क्या गवर्नमेंट इस के बारे में कोई कदम उठाने जा रही है?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: It is a suggestion for action. We have noted it.

SHRI RAM CHARAN: This is a

question concerning the whole nation, not of a Minister. It is not a question of just noting it.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: The hon. Member has suggested premature retirement of engineer officers and others. It is a suggestion. We have noted it.

SHRI RAM CHARAN: Are you prepared to undertake a survey of employees over 50 years of age and find out?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: Noted

12.23 hrs.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SPEAKER: As regards the question of privilege, Shri Umanath may ask for the leave of the House and then move a motion.

SHRI UMANATH (Pudukkottai): I ask for the leave of the House to move a motion of breach of privilege against one Shri Ramkrishna Bajaj of Bombay.

I would like to draw your attention, as well as the attention of this House through you, to the very grave outrage on the rights and privileges of a Member of this House, thereby of the House itself, committed by one Shri Ramkrishna Bajaj, a multi-millionaire of Bombay.

On 27-11-67, with your permission, I raised a half-hour discussion on the Shiv Sena atrocities in Bombay against the linguistic minorities residing in that city. Many hon. Members of this House, including yourself, had appreciated the level of the debate during the discussion on that subject. During the discussion, I stated that the CIA is financing Shiv Sena through Shri Ramkrishna Bajaj. I made this statement with a full sense of responsibility, and I stand by it.