



Speech Delivered by Shri Pradip Kumar Amat, Hon'ble Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly in the 58th Common Wealth Parliamentary Conference at Colombo, Srilanka from 10th to 15th September 2012.

Over the years, youth unemployment has stood as a formidable challenge before the planners and politicians across the world. Its virulence and magnitude has created great concern among the economists and intellectuals of the globe. Over a number of international seminars, summits and symposiums it has been debated and discussed how to get rid of the tentacles of this nagging challenge and provide adequate job opportunities to the budding youths of the developing and developed countries. Of course, unemployment is ubiquitous all over the world however the recent recession in the west has accelerated the malignancy of unemployment very significantly. Out of the global labour force of 3.3 billion, 200 million persons have been estimated to be fully unemployed. 75 million young people are jobless.

India is also in the stronghold of this menace and tackling youth unemployment has stood as a biggest challenge that the nation is facing today. Both in Rural and Urban India is in the clod grip of this monstrous menace. The number of Jobseekers registered with Employment Exchange as on 30.09.2011 was 401.02 lakh in rural urban areas taken together.

The Govt. of India has been making persistent effort to come out of this impasse by focusing on creation of productive employment at a faster pace to raise incomes of masses to bring about a general improvement of their living condition. The Job opportunities are created on account of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) investment in infrastructure development, growth in exports etc. A number of employment generation programmes such as Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Programme (PMEGP), Swarna Jayanti Employment Generation Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Livelihood Mission, Swarna Jayanti Sahar Rozgar Yojana for the urban youth and the most striking and historic move enacted by the Govt. in recent years is the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which is perhaps the largest employment generating programme in the world ensuing a one-step ahead move towards generating the right to work in a country with a population over one billion. It aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household who volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Apart from this, the outstanding and ambitious five year plans of India, with the vision of faster, sustainable and inclusive growth focus on generation of productive employment at a faster pace. Much



emphasis has been given on opening and functioning of ITI's, so that training facilities can be available at door steps of youth residing in rural, hilly and inaccessible areas of the Country. The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) have also made noteworthy contributions for providing employment opportunities to the rural and urban youth.

In spite of all these, tackling this increasingly challenging phenomenon for both developing and developed countries in an era of recurrent global economic crisis is, infact, a daunting task standing ahead. However, to get rid of this impasse the states may adhere to the following holistic measures from grassroot to global level.

1. Prime Importance should be on generation of sustainable livelihoods among disadvantaged populations especially in developing countries.
2. Improvement of the effectiveness of the non-formal training system to mediate the lateral potentials of young people into productive, social and economic activity be adhered to.
3. Self employment, entrepreneurship, school to work programmes and work based training should be promoted. Partnership to private sector needs to be strengthened. Cottage and small scale industries should be encouraged
4. Overhauling of the rigid economic policy of the nation states ensuring active policies to offer work or training to youth drifting into long term unemployment be made at a brisk pace.
5. Youth Employment Network, with integrated database of jobs, employers and available employees be set up in nation wide.

Thank you very much.
