

Rozgar Mela Drive is a Cover up for Failure in Job Creation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a virtual address distributed appointment letters to over 70,000 people selected for various government jobs and said that there are ample employment opportunities available in India in both the private and public sectors. Modi, while talking at the 'Rozgar Mela', said that his government has provided employment opportunities at an unprecedented scale and claimed that the main sources of government employment like SSC, UPSC, and the Railways have hired more people than before. But it is the government indulging in "event baazi" and a "publicity stunt" to cover up its failures in job creation.

The BJP, which entered the 2014 elections with the slogan of 2 crore jobs every year, has not taken proper steps towards fulfilling that promise after coming to power. Unemployment is on the rise as the central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has failed to provide job opportunities.

Union Labor and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav's announcement regarding the massive job creation of 1.25 crores in the last nine years shows the seriousness of the rampant unemployment problem. This figure is very less compared to Modi's promise. The Modi government has done nothing good for the unemployed, except for rushing around in the name of Rozgar 'Mela' every time there are elections to the Assemblies or Lok Sabha in various states.

It is estimated that around 2 crore people join the workforce every year in the country. That means around 18 crore people entered the labor market in the country in the last nine years. The minister, who tried to find the reason for the non-fulfillment of the promise of jobs, saying that there was a serious distortion in the job market was unable to present his case effectively because there is no reasonable cause. The Modi government has proudly announced that it is organizing job Mela across the country to fill the vacant posts in the central government before the 2024 elections. General elections next year, assembly elections of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram in November this year; and Rajasthan and Telangana state assembly elections in December. Undoubtedly, it is for this reason that the central government is in a hurry in the name of job creation.

In 2013, the promise made in the pre-election campaign to create 2 crore jobs every year is failed and it naturally sparked anger among the unemployed. The objective of Rozgar Melas is to quench their anger. Creating a limit of only 1.25 crore jobs while at least 18 crore jobs should be created is proof of the failure of the Modi government. Moreover, the minister did not say how many people have lost their jobs since 2014. What does it mean to work with dignity for all as promised by PM Modi?

The Union Minister himself declared that 90 percent of workers in India work in the informal sector. That means the government is aware of this problem. And Modi government should tell why Govt did not take steps to solve it. Even though 90 percent of the workers are engaged in low-quality jobs without social security coverage, the government's indifference is atrocious. Where is the dignified work for the workers working in these unorganized sectors? The Union Labor and Employment Minister has set a deadline of June 22 to provide massive jobs.

According to the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data on unemployment, the country's unemployment rate has been increasing at an average of 8.1 percent over 30 days. In 2014, before Narendra Modi became India's prime minister, the unemployment rate was 4.7 percent. Surprisingly, the Modi government has also gone back on other promises made before the Indian Labor Conference, the country's apex tripartite body on labor policies. For example, the 46th session of the LIC in 2015 recommended that India must have a national employment policy (NEP) to address the unemployment crisis. The government accepted this proposal. It has promised to take action in that direction. However, the Union Labor Department made it clear in Parliament that they do not have any plans regarding NEP. This statement itself says that the Modi government has no intention of providing employment. Under Prime Minister Modi, unemployment reached a record high in the 2017-18 financial year. NSSO puts the unemployment rate at 6.1 percent. This is a 45-year high since 1972-73. According to a World Bank study, it is 1.6 percent. In 1961, the unemployment rate was only 0.7 percent, the study said. Statistics show that the unemployment rate has reached its highest level under Modi. The unemployment rate of 6.1 percent in 2018 is only normal. Currently, at 9.1 percent, it increased to 9.3 percent in 2021 due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions. After the Covid outbreak subsided, the labor market recovered slightly. But according to CMIE data, the unemployment rate has reached 8.3 percent by December 2022. It is more than 8.1 percent even now. That is, there is no significant progress in the labor market.

It is only related to the organized sector of the economy. It accounts for less than 10 percent of the Indian workforce. Considering the informal sector, which accounts for 90 percent of the workforce, one can understand how serious the problem is.

The minister announced that the e-shram Portal has registered around 30 crore informal workers engaged in 400 different occupations. He announced that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have focused on three aspects of service, good governance, and welfare. He also said that we have taken care of the organized and unorganized workers of the country when it comes to welfare for all. But the facts show that the Center is doing false propaganda. If the employment rate is too low according to the official figures, it is not difficult to guess what the actual numbers are.

In 2011, the country's working-age population was 60.7 percent. It is growing rapidly. It will reach 65.1 percent by 2031. Currently, the population of the country is more than 1.42 billion. It is estimated that there are 80 crore workers among them. The labor force participation rate in 2021–22 is only 32.8 percent. In April 2023, according to CMIE data, only 40 crore workers are employed. This is a very sad fact indeed. The creation of 1.25 crore jobs in nine years and registration of only 30 crore informal workers on e-shram portals is not a relief to the unemployed.

Claims of massive job creation are simply misleading. Employment and employment creation have become a mirage under BJP. Rozgar Mela's... do not do justice to the unemployed youth with loud advertisements. Constructive actions will improve their lives. Also, the unemployed youth should realize that the imperialist globalization policies followed by the Modi government in the country are the root cause of the country's economic crisis and unemployment. The youth should fight against these policies and achieve the right to employment.