

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1220
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY 2024**

IMPACT OF RAW TOBACCO ON HEALTH

1220: SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that exposure to raw tobacco has been causing many health hazards diseases among the women bidi workers and their children;
- (b) if so, whether any detailed study has been conducted on its impact on human being and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any bidi workers have been registered as beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat Yojana / any other form of health insurance during the last year and the current year in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

(a) & (b): Ministry has published a Monograph titled “Bidi Smoking and Public Health”, 2008, which focuses on occupational hazards to the health of bidi workers while processing bidi. The impact of raw tobacco on bidi workers and their children is mentioned in detail in the Monograph available at:

(<https://ntcp.mohfw.gov.in/assets/document/Monograph%20on%20Bidi%20Smoking%20and%20Public%20Health.pdf>).

A study on “Occupational health hazards of bidi workers and their families in India: a scoping review”, published by WHO in BMJ Global Health in 2023 assesses the existing evidence on health conditions of bidi workers and their families in India. The study report is available at (<https://gh.bmj.com/content/8/11/e012413>).

(c) & (d): Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is the world’s largest publicly funded health assurance scheme which provides health cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to approximately 55 crore beneficiaries corresponding to 12 crore families constituting the bottom 40% of India’s population. States/UTs implementing AB-PMJAY have further expanded the beneficiary base at their own cost. Any individual including bidi workers who are listed in the existing database used for the implementation of PMJAY are entitled for free healthcare benefits under the scheme.

As on 7th February 2024, approximately 31.08 crore Ayushman Cards have been created under the scheme for poor and vulnerable individuals out of which 9.3 Crore and 8.5 Crore Ayushman Cards have been created in FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 respectively. There is no ‘bidi workers’ flag available for beneficiaries under AB- PMJAY.
