

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1026
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
BEEDI WORKERS
Jha Shri Raghunath;Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several beedi workers have been deprived of the benefit of welfare schemes being run by the Government since they have not been issued identity cards by the owners of the establishments, factory etc.;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure issuance of identity cards to all the beedi workers to enable them to avail the benefits of the welfare schemes;
- (c) whether more than twenty five lakh beedi workers are not covered under the Employee's Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the efforts made by the Government to cover all the beedi workers under EPF and MP Act, 1952?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b): The owners of the establishments, factory, employers and the contractors are persuaded by the Labour Welfare Organisation to issue identity cards to their workers. In the event of Identity Cards not being issued by establishments, contractors, the Labour Welfare Organisation (LWO) issues identity cards to beedi workers after verifying his bonafides/genuineness of his being a beedi worker to ensure that such beedi worker is not deprived of any benefit of our existing welfare schemes. Labour Departments of the State Governments have also been time and again requested to launch campaigns to issue identity cards to the workers in the States and also to impress upon the establishments to issue identity cards to the workers.

(c) to (e): As on 31.03.2005, 19,66,032 beedi workers have been covered under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. Special drives are launched by EPFO from time to time for coverage of all eligible beedi workers.