

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:131

ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004

WELFARE OF BEEDI WORKERS

Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Virendra Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the plight of the beedi workers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is implementing any schemes for the welfare of the beedi workers;
- (d) if so, the States where such schemes have been launched; and
- (e) the average wages of beedi workers both male and female separately?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

- (a) to (c): The Government is implementing various welfare schemes in the fields of Health, Housing, Education, Recreation and Social Security for the benefit of 40 lakh (approximate) beedi workers and their dependants.
- (d): The welfare schemes are implemented in all the States, wherever beedi workers are there.
- (e): The average minimum wages of beedi workers, varies from State to State between Rs.31.20 and Rs.172.84 for rolling one thousand beedis as notified by the State Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.