

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2643
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2010
PRODUCTION OF GUTKHA AND BIDI
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to regulate the production of gutkha and bidi in the country and bring it under the ambit of industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has finalised any plan for providing alternative income generating activities for bidi workers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)& (b) Cigars and Cigarettes of Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes are already covered under Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

(c) &(d) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has initiated action for rehabilitation of the beedi workers by providing them vocational training in certain courses according to the local market needs for viable alternative sources of livelihood. Out of 9 regions, 8 Regional Welfare Commissioners have initiated the vocational training programmes for beedi workers in their regions.

Ministry of Rural Development has taken up the matter of rehabilitation of bidi rollers in 10 States where bidi rollers are concentrated. The State Governments were advised to work out special projects for developing alternative livelihood options for beedi rollers under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and other similar schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development.