

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:175

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010

BEEDI WORKERS

Haque Shri Sk. Saidul;Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey recently to ascertain the total number of beedi workers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and male/female-wise;
- (c) whether these workers are issued identity cards by the Union Government, State Governments and factory owners;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the details of the welfare schemes being implemented for the social security, education, training and other welfare activities of the said workers?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALUKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.175 FOR 22.11.2010 BY PROF. Sk SAIDUL HAQUE : SHRI PRABODH PANDA.

(a): No Madam,

(b): Does not arise.

(c): The Beedi Workers are issued identity cards by the employers, State Governments and the Office of Welfare Commissioners.

(d): There are approximately 55 lakhs Beedi Workers in the Country, out of which 49.90 lakh Beedi Workers have been issued with identity cards upto 30.06.2010.

(e): The Welfare Schemes for Beedi Workers are:

(i) Basic Health Care is extended to these workers through 07 hospitals and 204 dispensaries all over the country. In addition, reimbursement of medical expenditure for treatment of serious diseases like heart ailment- up to Rs.1.30 lakh, kidney transplantation- up to Rs.2 lakh, treatment of cancer-actual expenditure and minor operations like hernia, prostate, appendectomy, gynec operation etc. up to Rs.30,000. Women workers are entitled for maternity benefit amounting to Rs.1`000 up to two deliveries, Widow/Widower workers are granted Rs.5000 each for conducting marriage of their two daughters, financial assistance of Rs.1500 as funeral expenses, purchase of spectacles Rs-300 and family welfare operation Rs.500 etc.

(ii) The Beedi workers are covered under the Group Insurance Scheme, wherein Rs.10,000 for natural death and Rs.25,000 on accidental death is paid by Life Insurance Corporation.

(iii) Under the education scheme, scholarships are paid from Rs.250 to Rs.8000 to the wards of the workers who are studying In Class-I to Professional Courses per child per annum.

(iv) Under the revised Integrated Housing Scheme, a uniform subsidy of Rs.40,000 is provided to a worker having his own land.