

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES
(2012-2013)**

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

TWENTY SEVENTH REPORT

ON

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

"Implementation of schemes for Beedi workers with particular reference to
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes"

Presented to Lok Sabha on _____

Laid in Rajya Sabha on _____



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

30 April 2013 /10 Vaisakha 1935 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (2012-2013)

Shri Gobinda Chandra Naskar - Chairman

MEMBERS - LOK SABHA

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Shri Bhudeo Choudhary
4. Smt. Santosh Chowdhary
5. Smt. Jyoti Dhurve
6. Shri Premchand Guddu
7. Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan
8. Dr. M. Jagannath
9. Shri Mohan Jena
10. Shri Mohinder Singh Kaypee
11. Shri Mithilesh Kumar
12. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal
13. Shri Bharat Ram Meghwal
14. Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat
15. Shri Bajju Ban Riyan
16. Shri C.L. Ruala
17. Smt. Rajesh nandi Singh
18. Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki
19. Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya
20. Shri Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure

MEMBERS - RAJYA SABHA

21. Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot
22. Shri Rishang Keishing
22. Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste
24. Shri Lalhming Liana
25. Dr. Bhalchandra Munekar
26. Shri D. Raja
27. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
28. Shri Ishwar Singh
29. Shri Veer Singh
30. Shri A.V. Swamy

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Dr. R.K. Chadha | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri D.R. Shekhar | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri S. Chatterjee | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri R.C. Wadhwa | - | Under Secretary |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes having been authorised by the Committee to finalise and submit the Report on their behalf, present this Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Labour and Employment on the subject "Implementation of schemes for Beedi workers with particular reference to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes".

2. The Committee took evidence of representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Labour and Employment for placing before the Committee the material and information the Committee required in connection with the examination of the subject.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on 17.4.2013.

4. A summary of conclusions/recommendations contained in the Report is appended (Appendix D).

**New Delhi;
30 April, 2013
10 Vaisakha, 1935 (Saka)**

**(GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR)
Chairman
Committee on the Welfare of
Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes**

CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND

1.1 The Beedi Industry is primarily a rural based labour intensive industry which provides employment to about 55 lakh workers mainly in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhatisgarh and Jharkhand. Majority of the Beedi workers belong to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, minority and other backward classes and are home based workers. Various welfare schemes in the sphere of health care, social security, education, housing, recreation have been formulated under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund and are in operation for extending benefits to the beedi workers including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes.

1.2 Beedi workers are among the neglected and vulnerable segments of workers. Most of them are illiterate, do not have any assets and also do not possess any marketable skills. Housing and sanitation condition of beedi workers are most precarious. This stressful life with unhygienic living conditions and inability to afford nutritious food results in poor health of most of the beedi workers. Added to this, many of them are subject to occupational illness like tuberculosis and skin diseases which often leads to gradual isolation within the society in which they live. Lack of awareness of laws that protect them makes them vulnerable to exploitation.

1.3 With a view to uplift the living conditions of the beedi workers, statutory measures have been adopted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India for setting up of Beedi Workers Welfare Fund to administer various welfare measures to such workers. Beedi Workers Welfare Fund was constituted under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund, Act, 1976 which came into operation with effect from 15.2.1977 by levy of cess on Beedis manufactured. The welfare measures being financed out of this fund include medical

facilities, social security, housing, educational assistance for dependants of workers and recreation facilities.

1.4 Beedi Workers Welfare Fund is administered by the Regional Welfare and Cess Commissioners under the overall control of the Director General (Labour Welfare) in the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. Separate Tripartite Advisory Committees have been constituted at the Central and State levels under this Welfare Fund to advise the Government on matters pertaining to administration of the Welfare Fund. The Union Labour Minister is the Chairman of the Central Advisory Committee. The State Advisory Committees are headed by the Labour Minister of respective states. These committees comprise of representatives of employers, employees and the Government.

CHAPTER II

IDENTIFICATION

2.1 The Committee have been informed that the Beedi workers are issued identity cards under the provisions of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Rules, 1978. Instructions have been issued from time to time to the concerned authorities to ensure issuance of identity cards as provided under rule 41 of the Rules to eligible workers. The Welfare Commissioners and other officers including (Medical Officers of the Labour Welfare Organization) who implement the welfare schemes under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund have been authorized to issue the identity cards. Awareness generation camps are organized in the areas where there is high concentration of Beedi workers regarding the importance of the identity cards to avail the benefits under the various schemes being implemented by the Labour Welfare Organization. Out of 64 lakh Beedi workers, around 51 lakh Beedi workers have been issued Identity cards.

2.2 It was also informed that the most important issue in administering any Welfare Scheme is the identification of genuine beneficiaries or the target groups. There is no denying the fact that efficacy of the delivery of various Welfare Schemes is dependent on identification of genuine workers/beneficiaries. To quote the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh "Lack of identity proof results in harassment and denial of services to the poor and marginalized". For all categories of workers covered under the Welfare Funds, legal obligation to issue Identity Cards is on the part of the employer/contractor concerned. In practice, employers/contractors do not show all the workers on their record to avoid recovery of PF contributions, excise duty and cess etc. Thus, only a limited number of workers are able to get the requisite Identity Cards from their employers/contractors. Moreover, many workers are 'Ghar Khata' or home-based workers. They do not enjoy the employer-employee relationship. Welfare Fund administering authorities are thus obliged to make alternative

arrangements for issuance of Identity Cards. Invariably, these arrangements leave much to be desired.

2.3 In this regard, a field investigation conducted by the Shri Ram Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources (SRC), New Delhi had revealed that many genuine target beneficiaries are not able to avail of the benefits to which they are entitled and at the same time many non-entitled individuals are availing of welfare benefits by securing Identity Cards through dubious means. In respect of Beedi Workers, it was found that those vested with the authority to issue Identity Cards were at best ensuring that the applicants in question had the know-how to roll Beedis. They had no means to verify the credentials of applicants as those actively engaged in rolling Beedis. Moreover, Identity Cards issued decades back have never been reviewed. Some of those identified as Beedi Workers might have died, migrated or switched over to other occupations. It was also observed that some of the Beedi Workers' families were holding more than one identity card.

2.4 In view of these facts, SRC, in its Study Report on 'Impact Evaluation of the Scheme of Financial Assistance for Education under Beedi, Cine and Mine Workers Welfare Funds' had highlighted the need for a fresh survey of Beedi workers. The Labour Department, Government of West Bengal as also the Labour Welfare Organisation of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India were convinced about the need for conducting a fresh survey for identification of genuine Beedi Workers. State Advisory Committee for Beedi Workers Welfare Fund has also been repeatedly emphasizing the need for issuance of Identity Cards to genuine Beedi Workers. However, both the State Labour Department and the Central Labour Welfare Organisation found it difficult to manage the proposed survey within the infrastructure and manpower available with them and suggested that this task might be assigned to an outside agency.

2.5 The Committee have been informed that keeping in view all the relevant aspects, the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India requested Shri Ram Centre for IR and HR to undertake a sample survey of the 'Identity Cards' already issued to Beedi workers to begin with in Malda and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal with the following objectives:

- (i) to conduct a sample survey of Beedi workers with Identity Cards to ascertain their genuineness;
- (ii) To estimate the proportion of fictitious and duplicate Identity Cards;
- (iii) To generate a list of fictitious and duplicate cards to facilitate necessary action for their cancellation by the concerned authorities;
- (iv) To identify causes of emergence of fictitious Identity Cards; and
- (v) To suggest remedial measures to overcome the problem of fictitious cards.

2.6 During the evidence, the Committee have been informed about the procedure to issue the identity cards as follows:-

- (a) Issue of identity card is a continuous process
- (b) Identity cards are issued through dispensaries of Labour Welfare Organisation on the basis of:-
 - (i) Certificates issued by employers
 - (ii) Log-book of beedi workers
 - (iii) Practical test of rolling beedis
 - (iv) Observation of index finger
 - (v) Local authorities, like Panchayats, are involved in identifying beedi workers.

2.7 When asked whether the Government had received any complaint regarding issue of false identity cards, the Ministry in their written reply, informed that a survey was conducted by Shri Ram Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources in the Malda and Murshidabad Districts of West Bengal shows that about 24.8% of identity cards are of questionable validity.

2.8 On being enquired whether any step has been taken to check such irregularities, the Ministry in their post-evidence reply stated that consequent to finding of the study team that indicated 24.8% cards as questionable, strict instructions were issued to the concerned Welfare Commissioners and it was clearly indicated that no identity card with questionable validity should be issued and that all existing cards with questionable validity should be cancelled immediately on receipt of complaint, if any.

2.9 When asked about the time by which the Government would complete the work regarding issue of identity cards to all SCs/STs Beedi workers, the Ministry in their written reply stated that issue of identity card is a continuous process and no specific steps had been taken to complete the work regarding issue of identity cards to all SCs/STs Beedi workers.

2.10 On being asked by the Committee about any survey/special campaign conducted to identify SCs/STs beedi workers in the country, the Ministry in a written reply stated that no separate record regarding number of SCs/STs beedi workers have been maintained. During the evidence, the Committee have been informed as under:

"So far as beedi workers are concerned, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in our society are very important component of our beedi workers segment. So far we were not doing any enumeration on the basis of castes and community of the beedi workers. But the good news is that now we have extended the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) for the beedi workers also and that enumeration is going on. There is a provision for enumerating them on the basis of caste and community. After we finish with enumeration, we will be able to get exact figures. Since it is a digitized data, there will be no mistake as to how many of them are the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

2.11 When asked the time by which this work would be completed and data regarding exact figure of SCs/STs Beedi workers would be available, the Ministry in their post evidence written reply stated that in the new format of enrolment details for the 64KB Smart Cards under RSBY, details of the Category of the beneficiaries viz. whether belonging to SC, ST, OBC, Others, Minority is being recorded. The exercise is being done for all beneficiaries of RSBY and not only for beedi workers. As the enrolment of Beedi workers has just started in few States and data preparation work is still being carried out, it will take some time to come out

with the exact number of SC/ST Beedi Workers. However, as it is proposed to graduate from 32 KB to 64 KB Smart Cards country-wide in next one year.

2.12 During the evidence, the Committee enquired about the identification of Beedi rollers in North Eastern States of Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam etc. the Ministry in their post evidence replies stated that in North-Eastern States, Kolkata has 2 Medical Units; one at Gauripur in Assam and another at Agartala in Tripura. As on 30.11.2012, 10592 Nos. of Identity Cards and 13,020 Nos. of Identity Cards have been issued by the Gauripur and Agartala Units respectively out of estimated 20,000 Beedi Workers in Assam and 19,000 Beedi workers in Tripura approximately. Issuing Identity Cards to the Beedi Workers is a continuous process and estimated number of beedi workers may vary in future. Given the limitation of staff in the region, it would take 2-3 years to complete the process of issue of cards to all the beedi workers.

2.13 As regards the identification and separate records of SC/ST Beedi workers, Committee are of the view that at this stage there is no need to make separate study for identification of SC/ST Beedi Workers as with the enumeration on the basis of caste and community of the Beedi Workers under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), the Ministry will be able to get the exact figures through digitalized data without any mistake. The Committee, however, are surprised to note that 24.8% of identity cards made for Beedi Workers having questionable validity. Committee take a serious view on it and strongly recommend that the Government should quickly conduct a study to identify the fake/invalid identity cards so that genuine Beedi Workers may not be deprived of their legitimate right of the various schemes envisaged by the Government for their welfare. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made by the Government in this regard at the earliest.

2.14 The Committee are dismayed to note that only Malda and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal were selected for conducting survey of Beedi Workers. The Committee would like to be apprised of the criteria for selection of districts for survey. The survey should be made category-wise in such a manner that exact number of SCs/STs Beedi Workers is identified. The Committee also recommend that surveys of such nature should be made in other States also. The Committee are also distressed to note that there are no means to verify the credentials of applicants as they are actively engaged in rolling beedis. The Committee would like to direct the Ministry to act in a proactive manner and draw out a strategical plan for verification of commercial as well as home based beedi workers. The Committee are dissatisfied to note that identity cards issues decades back have not been renewed. Moreover, some of beedi Workers family have more than one identity card. The ID card facilitates a beedi worker to reap the benefits available to them in the form of allowances etc. and thus streamlining the method for their issuance is of utmost importance. The Committee also recommend that the credentials of the applicants should be verified to avoid issue of fake/multiple identity cards.

CHAPTER III

WELFARE SCHEMES

The Committee have been informed that the objective of the welfare schemes is to provide social security to all the Beedi Workers, most of whom belong to the vulnerable sections of the society including those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The details of the welfare schemes are as under:

- A. Health Care
- B. Education
- C. Housing
- D. Other facilities.

A. HEALTH CARE

3.1 The Committee have been informed that there are 7 hospitals and 204 dispensaries all over the country. Hospitals are located at (i) 10-bedded Hospital at Gurusahayganj in Uttar Pradesh, (ii) 30-bedded Hospital at Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, (iii) 65-bedded Hospital at Dhulian West Bengal, (iv) 50-bedded T.B. Hospital at Koderma, Jharkhand, (v) 50-bedded Hospital at Mysore in Karnataka, (vi) 30-bedded Hospital at Mukuddal in Tamil Nadu, and (vii) One Hospital at Biharsharif in Bihar. One more hospital at Jhalda in West Bengal is under construction. 4 hospitals and 40 dispensaries have also been sanctioned for Beedi workers.

3.2 On being enquired about the location of 4 hospitals and 40 dispensaries, the Ministry in their written reply had provided the details vide Annexure I.

3.3 When asked about the common diseases in which treatment is being given in the Hospitals, the Ministry in their written replies stated the following common diseases among beedi workers-

1. URI (Upper Respiratory Track Infections)
2. Pyrexia
3. Diarrhoea
4. Anaemia
5. Lacunaria

6. Sinusitis
7. Leucorrhoea
8. Osorio Arthritis
9. PCN (Protein Calorie Malnutrition)
10. Skin Diseases (Eczema, Punties)

3.4 The Committee have been informed further that the provision of reimbursement in case of major ailments like heart, surgery, cancer, kidney transplantation etc. as under:-

- (i) The reimbursement up to Rs. 1.30 lakh is provided for heart diseases,
- (ii) Rs.2 lakh for kidney transplantation,
- (iii) Rs.30,000 for minor surgery like Appendectomy, Prostate, Gyeanic Operation, ulcer and hernia etc.
- (iv) Full reimbursement in case of cancer treatment.
- (v) Reimbursement of Rs.300 for purchase of a spectacles and
- (vi) Reservation of beds in T.B. hospitals, treatment and subsistence allowance from Rs.750/- to Rs.1000/- per month in case of T.B.

In addition to above, there is provision of maternity benefits of Rs.1000/- each for first two deliveries. Financial assistance of Rs.5000/- each is given for the marriage of the two daughters of the widow/widower Beedi workers, and Rs.1500 for funeral expenses of the deceased Beedi workers.

3.5 When asked about the details of the medical assistance given to Beedi workers including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Ministry in their written reply has given the details of diversified Medical assistance for workers as per Annexure II.

3.6 During the evidence, the Committee have been informed about the health assistance provided during the last three years to Beedi workers as per details given below:

| Health Assessment | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 |
| Persons benefited | 36,75,849 | 36,93,817 | 38,32,232 |
| Amount spent (in millions) | 626.00 | 645..15 | 702.89 |

3.7 During the evidence, the Ministry also stated that the Government have decided to cover Beedi Workers under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). The Committee have been informed that under this scheme the total sum insured of Rs.30,000 per BPL family (a unit of five) on a family floater basis, Pre-existing diseases are covered and health services relating to hospitalization and certain procedures which can be provided on a day-care basis are also covered. The Committee have also been informed the following benefits of RSBY.

(i) Cashless coverage in hospitalization with few exception

(ii) Provision of smart card

(iii) Provision of pre and post hospitalization expenses and

(iv) transport allowance @ 100 per visit upto the ceiling of Rs.1000 as part of the benefit

3.8. During the evidence, the Committee enquired about the number of smart cards issued and validity of the smart cards, the Ministry replied that 3.3 crore smart cards have been issued and initially the validity of smart cards is for three years and thereafter it would be reviewed.

3.9 When asked during the evidence the cases of misuse of smart card in various states particularly in Maharashtra, the Ministry stated that they were concern about the frauds and misuse of smart cards. The Ministry take action immediately on receipt of any complaint and in such cases the Ministry de-panelled such hospitals. So far 270 hospitals have been de-panelled. There are some shortcomings in Maharashtra which are being taken up with the Chief Minister to sort out the matter.

3.10 During the evidence, the Committee enquired about the difference between Adhar Card and Smart Card, the Ministry stated that there was no relation with the Adhar Card. The procedure of enumerating is different. Smart Card is prepared on the spot and it is paper less and delivered on the spot to the beneficiary.

3.11 When asked about the number of beneficiary of SCs/STs Beedi Workers, the Committee have been informed that enumeration has been going on and there is a provision for enumerating them on the basis of caste. The exact figures of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would be available only after the enumeration work is completed.

3.12 The Committee have also been informed about the funding pattern of RSBY as follows:-

- Contribution by GOI: 75% of the estimated annual premium
- Contribution by the State Governments: 25% of the annual premium
- Additional benefits can be provided by the State Government but the cost has to be borne by the State.
- Beneficiary to pay Rs.30 per annum as Registration Fee.
- Administrative cost to be borne by the State Government.
- Cost of Smart Card to be borne by the Central Government @ Rs.60 per beneficiary.

3.13 On being asked whether the Beedi workers could avail medical facility from Employees State Insurance (ESI) hospitals free of costs, the Ministry in their written reply stated that Beedi Workers working in the organized sector can avail medical facility from ESI hospitals.

3.14 The Committee have been informed during evidence that the Government have taken following decision recently for the welfare of the Beedi workers

- (1) power has been delegated to Welfare Commissioner (WC) to pass medical bills upto 2 lakhs
- (2) cashless medical assistance to workers: Recognized hospitals to be reimbursed directly.
- (3) Ambulance Van sanctioned.

3.15 The Committee note with concern that only 7 hospitals and 204 dispensaries are there in all over the country to cater to the needs of the 64 lakhs beedi workers. The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that 4 hospitals and 40 dispensaries have also been sanctioned for beedi workers. The Committee desire that these hospitals and dispensaries should be made functional expeditiously. The Committee

observe that most of these hospitals are located at far off places beyond the access of beedi workers due to which they are not in a position to avail the medical facilities. The Committee find that the common health problems associated with beedi rolling are respiratory, asthma, bodyache, headache, eyestrain, TB and spondilitis. These adversely affect the health of the beedi rollers. The Committee strongly feel that these workers need specialized, accessible, affordable and regular medicare. The Committee, therefore, desire that some alternative arrangements be made urgently for extending specialized medical treatment. Besides, the Committee recommend to ply mobile vans equipped with specialized doctor, nurse, medicines, etc. to facilitate the beedi workers residing in the remote areas where hospitals and dispensaries are not available.

3.16 The Committee observe that most of the beedi workers are poor, SC/ST and under BPL category. They are unable to spend money on the medical care. The Committee, therefore, recommend that cashless treatment should be given in recognized hospitals. In case they are not able to avail the facility at recognised hospital the actual amount for all the diseases should be reimbursed to SC/ST beedi workers. Further, the Committee also observe that only beedi workers working in organized sector are eligible to avail medical facilities from ESI hospitals. The Committee feel that the opening of new hospitals and dispensaries are alone not sufficient to cater to the medical needs of the beedi workers. The scope and benefits under ESI are more such as leave encashment during treatment period, etc. The Committees, therefore, recommend that all beedi workers including SCs and STs working under contractors or home base beedi workers should be brought under ESI Corporation.

3.17 The Committee feel happy to note that all beedi workers have been brought under the ambit of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna but at the same time take serious

note of the fact that enumeration under RSBY has not yet been completed causing delay in providing benefits of RSBY to SCs/STs beedi workers. The Committee, therefore, recommend that enumeration work should be expedited and the Committee should be apprised of the exact number of SCs/STs beedi workers in the country.

3.18 The Committee appreciate that so far 270 hospitals have been de-panelled only due to misuse of smart card but at the same time observe that the de-panelling of hospital and shortcomings in issue of smart cards in Maharashtra causes hardship to beedi workers for non-availability of medical facilities. The Committee, therefore, in order to bridge gap of de-panelled hospitals vis-a-vis shortcomings in issue of smart cards strongly recommend to strengthen the monitoring system albeit de-panelling so that basic purpose to Health facilities to the beedi worker may not be defeated. The Committee, therefore, be apprised the progress made by the Government in this regard.

B. EDUCATION

3.19 The Committee have been informed that financial assistance is provided to the school going children of the Beedi workers from Class-I to Professional courses ranging from Rs.250 to Rs.8000 per annum. The details of the assistance given and disbursed during the last three years are as under:-

| Group | Class | Amount in Rupees | |
|-----------|--|------------------|------|
| | | Girls | Boys |
| Group I | Class I to IV | 250* | 250* |
| Group II | Class V to VIII | 940 | 500 |
| Group III | Class IX | 1140 | 700 |
| Group IV | Class X | 1840 | 1400 |
| Group V | Class XI to XII | 2440 | 2000 |
| Group VI | Graduation/three years'diploma, BBA, BCA | 3000 | 3000 |
| Group VII | Professional degree (M.B.B.S, B.E., B.Sc. (Agri), MBA, MCA, etc. | 8000 | 8000 |

*Financial assistance of Rs.250/- is given for the purchase of Books and Uniforms for the children studying in Class-I to IV.

| DISBURSEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Year | Budget allocation | No. of beneficiaries | Amount sanctioned (in thousand) |
| 2009-10 | 9,55,130 | 16,21,798 | 13,11,750 |
| 2010-11 | 13,52,376 | 9,45,698 | 11,11,471 |
| 2011-12 | 8,18,851 | 6,59,940 | 8,15,892 |

3.20 On being asked whether the Government propose to enhance the financial assistance due to steep hike in essential commodities, the Ministry in their written reply stated that there was a proposal for enhancement of scholarship amount from 8000/- to Rs.15,000/- for professional degree courses under the existing schemes "for award of scholarships under Beedi/Iron ore, Manganese Ore, chrome ore Mines/LSDM/Mica Mines/Cine Workers Welfare Funds".

3.21 When asked whether scholarship and vocational training were given to children of SC & ST Beedi Workers, the Ministry in their written reply stated in negative.

3.22 The Committee have also been informed that there is no scheme to open new schools/colleges in the area inhabited by beedi workers.

3.23 The Committee express their displeasure to note that there is no scheme to open new school/colleges in the area inhabited by beedi workers. The Committee observe that the Government on the one hand is introducing various schemes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, etc. for the development of education and on the other hand not opening schools/colleges in areas inhabited by beedi workers including SCs/STs. The Committee are of the view that it is the education which can bring significant change in the socio-economic status of the SC & ST community. Educating specially to the children is of paramount importance for overall development of the community. Government, NGOs and Corporate Sector should work together to educate the children

of Beedi Workers. Educationists should work out of a model where children are encouraged to go to school instead of taking up the job of making beedis. NCERT or even other organisations may conduct detailed study and submit a proposal to involve all the stakeholders in improving education level of the children of SC & ST community. This may include opening of new schools providing incentives to join the school, discourage dropouts, provide hostel facility, provision of scholarships, etc. The Committee, therefore, recommend that new schools/colleges should be opened where schools are inadequate to cater the needs.

3.24 The Committee note that entire family including wards of SC/ST beedi workers work for the whole day to meet the target of securing full day wage. In such a pernicious circumstances, children forgo perforce their education to supplement the family income. The Committee, therefore, desire that suitable mechanism be evolved and awareness campaign regarding various schemes for the development of education should be launched to check drop out ratio so that children of beedi workers could get at least the elementary education.

3.25 The Committee observe that the cost of higher study has been enhanced manifold and the condition of beedi workers is worsening day by day. The Committee feel happy to note that there is proposal to enhance scholarships from 8000/- to 15000/- for professional degree course. The Committee, therefore desire that this enhancement proposal should be implemented immediately. The Committee also recommend that scholarship upto graduation level should also be step up. The Committee, however, dismay to note that the details of the scholarship to the wards of SC/ST beedi workers is not available and there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to give training to the wards of SC/ST Beedi workers. The Committee strongly recommend that training should be imparted to the wards of SC/ST beedi workers. The Committee would like to be apprised about the details of scholarship

given to the wards of SCs/STs beedi workers. The Committee desire that wards of SC/ST beedi workers should be given both the scholarships- scholarship of SC/ST as per their entitlement and Scholarship of beedi workers.

C. HOUSING

3.26 The Committee have been informed that the Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS) 2007 has been introduced on 1.4.2007 wherein the subsidy of Rs.40,000 is released in two equal instalments. The workers' contribution is Rs.5000/-, which is deposited after the administrative approval granted by DGLW's Office. The first instalment would be released when the construction work is reached up to plinth level and second instalment would be released when the construction reaches up to roof level to enable workers to complete construction in all respect. The workers' contribution of Rs.5000/- shall be refunded to him at the time of the releases of second instalment.

3.27 The Committee have been informed about the physical and financial progress under the Housing scheme. The details are given as follows:-

PHYSICAL & FINANCIAL PROGRESS UNDER HOUSING SCHEME

| (Rs. in crore) | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Name of the Scheme | 2009-10 | | 2010-11 | | 2011-12 | |
| HOUSING | No. of beneficiaries | Expenditure | No. of beneficiaries | Expenditure | No. of beneficiaries | Expenditure |
| No. of houses sanctioned | 4,465 | 57.95 | 27,272 | 54.55 | 26,972 | 53.09 |

3.28 To a query whether the Government propose to further revise this RIH Scheme, the Ministry in their written reply have stated that "a proposal is under consideration to enhance the subsidy from 40,000/- to 75,000/- , State Government are being consulted" in this regard.

3.29 When asked whether any study has been conducted to assess the impact of the Housing Scheme on the living conditions and quality of life of beedi workers, the Ministry in their written reply have stated as under:-

"No such specific study has been conducted to assess the impact of the Housing Scheme on the living conditions and quality of life of Beedi Workers. However, an Evaluation Study of RIHS, 2007 shows that more than 80% beneficiaries in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha and Tamilnadu opined that it has brought much improvement in their quality of life."

3.30 The Committee have been informed that all Beedi workers are eligible for subsidy under RIHS and there is no extra benefit under this scheme to SC/ST workers.

3.31 The Committee note the steep hike in the material and construction cost of houses. Subsidy given to the beedi workers is too less to construct a simple house. The Committee feel happy to note that there is a proposal under consideration of the Government for enhancement of subsidy from Rs.40000/- to Rs.75000/-. The Committee, therefore, desire that the said proposal should be implemented immediately. The Committee also recommend that Housing loan to beedi workers particularly SC/ST beedi workers should be sanctioned by banks/financial institutions on interest free/subsidised rate of interest.

3.32 The Committee note that under Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS), the workers have to deposit Rs.5000/- after the administrative approval of Director General Labour Welfare Office which are refundable. The Committee find that it is very difficult for a poor SC/ST beedi workers to arrange Rs.5000/- for getting subsidy of Rs.40,000/- under RIHS. The Committee, therefore, recommend that submitting of Rs.5000/- by SC/ST beedi workers should be done away with.

3.33 The Committee note that Evaluation Study of RIHS 2007 has been conducted. The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of the evaluation study. The Committee also recommend that similar evaluation study should also be conducted w.r.t other welfare schemes i.e. Health care and education.

D. OTHER FACILITIES

3.34 During the evidence, the Committee have been informed that the following facilities extended to beedi workers (including SCs/STs workers)

(i) Group Insurance Scheme

The Group Insurance Scheme provides Rs.10,000/- for natural death cover and Rs.20,000/- for death due to accident of the Beedi worker. The Scheme is run through LIC of India and the premium is paid by the Department.

(ii) Financial Assistance

Rs. 5,000/- is provided to beedi workers for marriage of first two daughters.

Rs. 15,000/- is provided for funeral of the deceased worker.

(iii) Recreation

For organizing sports/games, social and cultural activities for workers and their families following provisions are there:-

- (a) For organisation of sports/games/tournaments activities by the Department, 75% of the cost subject to maximum Rs.40,000/- per tournament in a financial year.
- (b) Provision for celebration of three national festivals Rs.2,500/- per function subject to maximum Rs.7,500 in a financial year.
- (c) Provision for celebration of seven social functions. Rs.2,000/- per function subject to maximum Rs.14,000/- in a financial year.

3.35 The Committee note that an amount of Rs.10,000/- for natural death and Rs.25,000/- for accidental death is being paid to the heirs of the beedi workers. The Committee feel that the compensation is very low and recommend that it should be enhanced from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.50,000/- for natural death and from Rs.25,000 to Rs.1,00,000 for accidental death.

3.36 The Committee appalled to note that financial assistance of Rs.5,000/- is given for marriage of first two daughters. The Committee find this assistance amount rather too paltry to help a beedi worker to solemnize a marriage due to increase in cost of

various items and therefore recommend to enhance the amount to 50,000/- for marriage of two daughters.

CHAPTER IV

ORGANISATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 The Committee have been informed about the organisational set up for implementation of various schemes meant for beedi workers. Also about the Labour Welfare Organization in the Ministry of Labour and Employment , which administers the Welfare Funds and is headed by the Director-General (Labour Welfare) an ex-officio Joint Secretary. For administration of the Funds the country has been divided into 9 regions, each under the charge of a Welfare Commissioner.

4.2 The Committee have also been informed that welfare schemes are administered and implemented through 9 regional welfare Commissioner in the field as per details given below:-

| WELFARE COMMISSIONERS AND THEIR JURISDICTION | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Sl. No. | Headquarters | States/UT covered of the Region |
| 1. | Welfare Commissioner, Allahabad | Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, N.C.T of Delhi and U.T. of Chandigarh |
| 2. | Welfare Commissioner, Bangalore | Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep Islands. |
| 3. | Welfare Commissioner, Ajmer | Gujarat, Rajasthan & Haryana |
| 4. | Welfare Commissioner, Bhubaneswar | Orissa |
| 5. | Welfare Commissioner, Kolkata | West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram & Sikkim |
| 6. | Welfare Commissioner, Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. |
| 7. | Welfare Commissioner, Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh |
| 8. | Welfare Commissioner, Karma | Bihar and Jharkhand |
| 9. | Welfare Commissioner, Nagpur | Maharashtra, Goa, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. |

4.3 On being enquired about the details of the mechanism in place to ensure that the benefits under the labour laws reach the beneficiaries, the Ministry in their written reply stated that the welfare schemes are being implemented through 9 regional welfare commissioner.

4.4 On a specific query in regard to the number of Welfare Commissioner belonging to SC/ST community functioning in the nine zones, the Ministry in the written reply stated that

one Welfare Commissioner belongs to SC/ST community out of 8. One post of Welfare Commissioner is vacant.

4.5 When asked the manner by which various schemes launched for the welfare of Beedi Workers are propagated, the Ministry in their written reply has stated that welfare scheme are propagated by Welfare Commissioners.

4.6 The Committee observe that the responsibility of implementation of all Welfare schemes are given to the Welfare Commissioners of nine regions in the country. The Committee also observe that Welfare Commissioners of Allahabad, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Nagpur regions have given jurisdiction of 6, 10, 4 and 4 States respectively for implementing various schemes for beedi workers. The Committee observe that it is not only very difficult for the Welfare Commissioner who is holding responsibility of more than two States for proper monitoring, supervising and implementing various schemes but also for the beedi worker to express their difficulties to the Commissioner. The Committee, therefore, desire in order to have effective working and monitoring of Welfare Commissioner and to facilitate liaison/accessibility of beedi workers to their officer it is essential that a responsibility of not more than one State should be entrusted to a Welfare Commissioner. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry without further ado should strengthen the Welfare Commissioners with proper logistic support to implement, supervise and monitor various schemes meant for the welfare of beedi workers.

4.7 The Committee find that there is one post vacant of Welfare Commissioner. The Committee also note that only one ST Welfare Commissioner belong to SC/ST Community out of eight. The Committee would like to stress that Welfare Commissioners are instrumental in execution and implementation of Welfare Schemes

for beedi workers. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend that this post should not be kept vacant. The Committee also desire that representation of SC/ST community be included as per guidelines of the Government of India for effectively looking after the interest of SC/ST beedi workers in the country.

CHAPTER V

FUNDS FOR WELFARE SCHEMES

5.1 The Committee have been informed that the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 has been enacted to provide for financing of measures to promote the welfare of persons engaged in beedi establishments. The Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 has been enacted to provide for the levy and collection, by way of cess, of a duty of excise on manufactured beedis.

5.2 It has also been informed that the fund has been set up under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976. The corpus is raised by levy of cess on manufactured beedis. The present rate of cess is Rs.5/- per thousand manufactured beedis. This fund is utilized to meet the expenditure on account of welfare schemes in the area of medical and health care, housing assistance, education to the children of the Beedi Workers.

5.3 When asked the criteria adopted for levying cess on manufacture of beedi, the cess collected during the last three years and the manner by which the amount collected for cess is utilized, the Ministry in their written reply has stated that the cess on manufacturing beedis is levied @ of Rs.5 per thousand and the amount collected for cess is utilized on various welfare schemes. The detail of the cess collected during the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | Amount |
|---------------------|--------|
| 2009-10 | 168.23 |
| 2010-11 | 162.27 |
| 2011-12 | 163.14 |
| 2012-13 (upto 9/12) | 74.47 |

5.4 On being enquired whether there is any proposal to enhance the rate of cess, the Ministry in their written reply has stated that there is proposal to enhance rate of cess with provision of periodic revision and to withdraw the exemption given to beedi manufacturers of less than 20 lakh beedis in a year.

5.5 The Committee have been informed that the cess collection is less than the expenditure since 2004. On being enquired how the excess amount is met, the Ministry in their written reply has stated that the excess amount of expenditure is being met through budgetary support.

5.6 When asked the details of budget allocated for various schemes and expenditure incurred during the last four years. The Ministry stated the details of the budget allocated for various schemes during last four years as per Annexure III.

5.7 On being asked the details of the funds lapsed on various welfare schemes due to non-utilization during the last four years and reasons for such non utilization and corrective steps taken thereon, the Ministry in their written reply given the details of budget estimate and expenditure thereon as per Annexure IV.

5.8 During the evidence, the Committee enquired about the less utilization of fund upto September, 2012-13, the official of the Ministry clarified as under:

"I just want to give a clarification to Hon'ble Members that the maximum expenditure on most of these scheme is done in the last quarter particularly for housing and scholarship. The healthcare is a regular expenditure that will go on, but these two normally, we will do it in the last quarter."

5.9 The Committee note that Beedi Workers Welfare Fund set up under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act 1976, is financed through a levy of cess by the way of excise duty on manufactured beedis. The Committee find that cess is the only source of finance of welfare schemes for beedi workers. The Committee note that expenditure on Welfare Schemes is increasing every year and the Government has decided to enhance the rate of cess and to withdraw the exemption given to beedi manufacturer of having less than 20 lakhs beedis in a year. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 be amended in a manner so as to enhance rate of cess and to withdraw the exemption being given to the beedi manufacturers having turnover of less than 20 lakh beedis per year. The Committee also recommend that in

the meantime, till the Cess Act is amended, additional budgetary support be obtained from the Ministry of Finance for funding the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund so that welfare activities of Beedi Workers are not impeded. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should rope in corporate houses for extending support for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Beedi Workers under Corporate Social Responsibility.

CHAPTER VI

CENTRAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

6.1 The Committee have been informed that the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act provides for constitution of a Central Advisory Committee to coordinate the work of the Advisory Committees and to advise the Central Government on any matter arising out of the administration of this Act. These Committees are Tripartite in nature. The Central Government may constitute as many State Advisory Committees as it thinks fit, but not exceeding one for each of the principal beedi producing States, to advise the Central Government on such matters arising out of the administration including matters relating to the application of the Fund. In addition the activities under this Fund, are also reviewed by Senior Officers of the Division/Organisation regularly and corrective measures are taken as and when necessary.

6.2 In regard to the formation of Central and State Advisory Committees, the Committee have been informed as under:-

“The Central Advisory Committee is constituted in accordance with rules 3(1) (a) of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Rules, 1978, as amended from time to time stipulates the provisions for the constitution of Central Advisory Committees, as reproduced below:-

“Composition – (1)(a) the Central Advisory Committee shall consist of the following persons, to be appointed by the Central Government, namely:-

- (i) The Chairman
- (ii) Two Vice-Chairmen, of whom one shall be an officer of the Central Government and the other either a representative of the employees or a representative of the persons engaged in Beedi establishments;
- (iii) Two Officer of the Central Government to be nominated by the Central Government, ex-officio;

- (iv) Such number of Welfare Commissioners as may be nominated by the Central Government, ex-officio;
 - (v) Such number of persons to represent the owners of beedi establishments, factories or contractors who are engaged in the manufacture of beedis, as are equal to the aggregate of those provided in sub-clause (ii) & (iv), to be appointed after consultation with such organisations, if any, of the owners of beedi factories or establishments or contractors, as may be recognized by the Central Government in this behalf; and
 - (vi) Such number of persons, of whom one shall be a woman to represent the persons employed in the manufacture of beedis employed by any establishment or factory, directly or through any agency, employers or contractors as are equal in number to those provided in sub-clause (v) to be appointed, after consultation with such organisations, if any, of the persons so employed, as may be recognized by the Central Government in this behalf.
- (b) An officer of the Central Government shall be appointed by that Government as Secretary of the Central Advisory Committee and shall be entitled to attend and take part in the meetings of the Committee, but shall not be entitled to vote.”

State Advisory Committee on Beedi Workers Welfare Fund

As per rule 3(2)(a) of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Rules, 1978 – each Advisory Committee constituted under Section 5 shall consist of the following persons to be appointed by the Central Government, namely:-

- (i) The Chairman
- (ii) The Welfare Commissioner, having jurisdiction in the State or States for which the Advisory Committee is constituted, who shall be the Vice-Chairman, ex-officio;

Provided that where more than one commissioner is appointed to the Committee, the Central Government may appoint any one of them to be the Vice-Chairman.

- (iii) One representative each of the concerned State Government or States Government, as the case may be, ex-officio;
- (iv) A member of the State Legislature appointed in consultation with the Government of State or States concerned;
- (v) Such number of persons to represent the owners of beedi establishments or factories or contractors who are engaged in the manufacture of beedis, as are equal to the aggregate of those provided in sub-clause (ii) & (iii), to be appointed after consultation with the organisations of the owners of beedi establishments or factories or contractors, if any, as may be recognized by the Central Government in this behalf;
- (vi) Such number of persons to represent the persons employed in the manufactures of beedis, as are equal to the aggregate of those provided in sub-clause (ii) & (iii), to be appointed after consultation with the organisations of the persons so employed, if any, as may be recognized by the Central Government in this behalf;
- (vii) A woman has been appointed under sub-clause (v) or (vi).

(b) An Officer of the Beedi Workers Welfare Organization of the State or States concerned shall be appointed as the Secretary of the Advisory Committee to attend and take part in the meetings of the Committee but shall not be entitled to vote.

6.3 When asked the number of State Advisory Committee functioning in the country under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund (BWFF), the Ministry in their written reply stated that the total number of State Advisory Committees in the country are 14, out of which 10 SACs are functional and 4 SACs are under reconstitution. The details of the States where SAC on BWFF are operating is given below :

| Sl. No. | Name of State |
|---------|---------------|
|---------|---------------|

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | - under reconstitution |
| 2. | Bihar | -do- |
| 3. | Gujarat | -do- |
| 4. | Kerala | |
| 5. | Karnataka | |
| 6. | Maharashtra | |
| 7. | Madhya Pradesh | |
| 8. | Odisha | |
| 9. | Rajasthan | |
| 10 | Tamil Nadu | - under re-constitution |
| 11. | Uttar Pradesh | |
| 12 | West Bengal | |
| 13. | Jharkhand | |
| 14. | Chhattisgarh | |

The Central Advisory Committee/State Advisory Committees are constituted to advise the Central Government on matters related to administration of the above Fund.

6.4 When enquired about the provision to include SC/ST Members and Local MP/MLA in Central as well as State Advisory Committees, the Ministry in their written replies stated that there was no provision to include SC/ST Members and local MP/MLA in Central as well as State Advisory Committees.

6.5 The Committee note that Central Advisory Committee is constituted under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act 1976 to monitor the Welfare Scheme formulated under the Welfare Funds as well as to advise the Workers Welfare Organisation for creation of new schemes/modifications of existing schemes to enhance the benefits to be provided to beedi workers. The Committee note that out of 14 State Advisory Committees (SACs) under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Rules 1978, 4 SACs are pertaining to States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are still under re-constitution. The Committee urge the Government to take up the matter of reconstitution of SACs on priority so that necessary advise on matters related to administration of above fund may be sought and utilized for the welfare of beedi workers. The Committee appalled to note that there is no provisions for nomination of local MP/MLA in the Central Advisory Committee.

The Committee strongly express their displeasure in the matter that the members of SCs/STs Associations are also not being included in the Central Advisory Committee and State Advisory Committees. The Committee are of the view that the relevant Act should be suitably amended to include local MP/MLA and Members from SCs/STs Associations in this Central/State Advisory Committee. The Committee also feel that the beedi workers belonging to SC/ST community may be induced to form Associations/Self Help Group at Village Panchayat/Municipal ward level to spread awareness among their community about the welfare schemes meant for them and look after their own development.

CHAPTER VII

MISCELLANEOUS

A. PENSION

7.1 During the evidence of the non-official witnesses on the subject taken on 18.1.2011, the representatives of various Associations had expressed their agony that pension is paid by the Employees' Provident Funds is much less than the old age pension, widow pension etc. paid by different State Government. When asked about the pension scheme of beedi workers, the Ministry in their written reply has stated that Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is applicable on all establishments covered under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Pensions Act, 1952. The Committee have also been informed that there is no separate scheme for Beedi Workers in EPFO.

7.2 The Committee note that very meager amount of pension is paid to the Beedi workers under Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Pension Act, 1952 and there is no separate pension scheme for Beedi workers. The Committee are of the view that a separate pension scheme should be launched under social security scheme of the beedi workers. The Committee also strongly recommend that the amount of minimum pension should be fixed at Rs.1500/- per month.

B. WAGES

7.3 The Committee have been informed by the representatives of Associations that beedi workers are not paid minimum wages determined by the Government. When asked about the criteria for fixing wages of beedi workers and whether the beedi workers are satisfied with their wages and if not what are their demands? The Ministry in their written reply have stated that the Act allow the respective State Government to fix the wages of beedi workers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

7.4 The Committee are surprised to note the lukewarm response of the Ministry that the Minimum Wages Act 1948 allow the respective State Government to fix the wages

of beedi workers. The Committee, therefore, recommend to instruct the regional Welfare Commissioner of all the nine zones to look into the matter on priority and to ensure that all beedi workers should get the minimum wages fixed by the Government and apprise the Committee.

C. IMPACT OF ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN

7.5 On the question of impact of anti-smoking campaign on the livelihood of beedi workers, the Ministry in their written reply have stated that no such survey has been conducted.

7.6 When asked whether the Government have chalked out any strategy to rehabilitate such jobless workers, the Ministry in their written reply stated that the Ministry had initiated action for rehabilitation of the beedi workers to provide them vocational training for viable alternative sources of livelihood. Welfare Commissioners have identified some courses and areas, where the concentration of beedi workers is more. The courses/trades are: Zardosi embroidery, Fabric Painting, Knitting and Weaving etc.

7.7 The Committee note that no survey in regard to the impact of anti-smoking campaign has been conducted so far. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Government should take initiative to conduct a survey on the impact of anti-smoking campaign on the livelihood of beedi workers. The Committee also recommend that vocational training which are identified by the Welfare Commissioner should be imparted to the jobless beedi workers and their children at their earliest and apprise the Committee.

D. SUPREME COURT DIRECTIVES

7.8 Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement delivered on 19.11.1991 in W.P. 1262/87 filed by Shri M. Rajangam, Secretary, District Beedi Workers' Union regarding welfare of Beedi Workers had issued 11 point guidelines. The details are given below:

- (i) The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Rules, 1968 should be strictly implemented and once that is done the evil of not furnishing the books to the home workers would be eradicated.

- (ii) An establishment of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner with full equipment for the purpose of implementation of the Statue should be located within the area and the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner should have directions to enforce the Act in all aspects. This establishment should start functioning within three months from now.
- (iii) The labour laws as also the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act should be strictly enforced so that the workers get their legitimate dues and the conditions of employment improve.
- (iv) Tobacco manufacturing has indeed health hazards. Child labour in this trade should therefore be prohibited as far as possible and employment of child labour should be stopped either immediately or in a phased manner to be decided by the State Governments but within a period of not exceeding three years from now. The provisions of Child Labour Abolition Act, 1986 should be strictly implemented.
- (v) Contract Labour System, it is alleged, is indispensable in this trade. The Union Government is directed to look into this aspect of the matter and take its final decision on way or the other within six months from now.
- (vi) Beedi trade is a flourishing one. Exploitation of labour is rampant in this trade. A Government labour establishment should be located in the area with full complement to answer the requirements of the matter.
- (vii) Since Beedi Manufacturing process is carried more outside the factory than. Within, the system of maintaining the registers as a regulating practice has become necessary. Great care should, therefore, be taken to ensure the maintenance of the register system as the bulk of the employees outside the factories can be regulated only through the record maintained in the registers.
- (viii) The Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 and the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 which contain beneficial provision should be implemented in the true spirit and since they are legislations of the Central Government, the machinery of the Central Government should be made operational in the area.
- (ix) Grievance has been made that the pass books are not maintained in the names of actual workers. This should be ensured.
- (x) The Welfare Fund should be properly administered after and in the cess of a death of a workman appropriate assistant should be extended out of the Fund quickly.
- (xi) In view of the health hazards involved in the manufacturing processes every worker including children, if employed, should be insured for a minimum amount of Rs.50,000/- and the premium should be paid by the employer and the incidence should not be passed on to the workman.

7.9 When asked about the action taken on the directives issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Ministry in their written reply has stated that matter is under examination with concerned State Government and Provident Fund Organisation. The reply shall follow shortly.

7.10 The Committee note that the directives issued on 19.11.1991 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court are still under examination with the concerned State Governments and its organisation. The Committee take a serious note for non-implementation of directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court by the Ministry so far. The Committee, therefore, desire that the directives of the SC should be implemented forthwith and the Committee may be apprised suitably.

New Delhi;
30 April, 2013
10 Vaisakha, 1935 (Saka)

(GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR)
Chairman
Committee on the Welfare of
Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes

Annexure- I
(vide Para 3.2)

| S.No. | Regions | Hospitals/Dispensaries |
|--|-------------|---|
| (i) 4 Hospitals (15 Bedded) | | |
| 1 | Bangalore | 15 Bed Hospitals at Yadgir, Karnataka |
| 2 | Kolkata | 15 Bed Hospital at Sagardighi, District -Murshidabad (WB) |
| 3 | -d0- | 15 Bed Hospital at Nabagram, District - Murshidabad (WB) |
| 4 | Hyderabad | 15 Bed Hospital at Sircilla, District - Karim Nagar (AP) |
| (ii) 38 Static-cum-Mobile Dispensaries (SCM) | | |
| 1 | Ajmer | SCM Karkhedi, District - Vadodara |
| 2 | Allahabad | SCM Agwanpur, District - Moradabad(U.P.) |
| 3 | -d0- | SCM Karha Bazar, District - Mau (U.P.) |
| 4 | -d0- | SMU Aonla, District - Bareilly(U.P.) |
| 5 | -d0- | SCM Bara, District - Allahabad (U.P.) |
| 6 | -d0- | SCM Phoolpur, District - Allahabad (U.P.) |
| 7 | Bangalore | SCM at Mandya |
| 8 | -d0- | SCM at Kollegal |
| 9 | Bhubaneswar | SCM Khandapada, District - Nayagarh |
| 10 | -d0- | SCM Boinda, District - Angul |
| 11 | -d0- | SCM Redhakhol, District - Sambalpur |
| 12 | -d0- | SCM Samasingha, District - Jharsuguda |
| 13 | Hyderabad | SCM Kurnool Town, District - Kurnool (A.P). |
| 14 | -d0- | SCM Atmakur, District - Neelore (A.P). |
| 15 | -d0- | SCM Rayachoti Town, District - Kadapah (A.P). |
| 16 | -d0- | SCM Vetapalem, District - Prakasam (A.P). |
| 17 | -d0- | SCM Hyderabad |
| 18 | -d0- | SCM Kallakkad, District – Tireunvelveli. |
| 19 | -d0- | SCM Polluyangudi, District – Tirunelveli. |
| 20 | -d0- | SCM Monday Market, District - KanyaKumari. |
| 21 | -d0- | SCM Ambasamudram, District - Tirunelveli |
| 22 | Jabalpur | SCM Maugunj, Rewa |
| 23 | -d0- | SCM Datiya, District - Gwalior |
| 24 | -d0- | SCM Dalpatpur, District - Sagar |
| 25 | Kolkata | SCM Bagnan (Howrah) |
| 26 | -d0- | SCM Rabindranagar(Hoogly) |
| 27 | -d0- | SCM Naihati (24 pgs (N) |
| 28 | -d0- | SCM Swarupnagar (24 pgs(N) |
| 29 | -d0- | SCM Kankra(24 pgs(N) |
| 30 | -d0- | SCM Hingalganj (24 pgs(N) |
| 31 | -d0- | SCM Slar (Murshidabad) |
| 32 | -d0- | SCM Suri, Birbhum |
| 33 | -d0- | SCM Panskura, Midnapur East |
| 34 | -d0- | SCM Kaliaganj, Uttar Dinajpur |
| 35 | -d0- | SCM Kelomal, PurbaMidnapore |
| 36 | -d0- | SCM Contai, PurbaMidnapore |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| 37 | -d0- | SCM Tamluk, PurbaMidnapore |
| 38 | Nagpur | SCM Bhiwandi, District - Thane |
| (iii) Static Dispensaries (SD) | | |
| 1 | Allahabad | SD Lalitpur (U.P.) |
| 2 | Jabalpur | SD Newari or Prathvipur, District - Tikamgarh |

One SCM dispensary, Tinkbir, Deogarh (Bhubaneswar Region) has also been sanctioned.

DIVERSIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS

| PURPOSE | NATURE OF ASSISTANCE |
|---|---|
| Ophthalmic Problems | Financial assistance of Rs.300/- for purchase of spectacles |
| Tuberculosis | Reservation of beds in T. B. Hospitals and domiciliary treatment for workers. Subsistence allowance Rs.750/- p.m. to Rs.1000/- is paid to workers. |
| Heart Diseases | Reimbursement of expenditure up to Rs.1,30,000/- to workers. |
| Kidney Transplantation | Reimbursement of expenditure up to Rs.2,00,000/- to workers. |
| Cancer | Reimbursement of actual expenditure on treatment, medicines, and diet charges incurred by workers, or their dependants. |
| Minor surgery like Hernia, Appendectomy ulcer, Gynaeco-logical diseases and prostrate diseases. | Reimbursement of expenditure upto Rs.30,000/- to workers and their dependants. |
| Mental Diseases | Financial assistance for treatment of mental diseases, diet, railway fare and subsistence allowance to workers. |
| Leprosy | Financial assistance for Rs.30/- per patient per day for indoor treatment and Rs.6/- per patient per day for outdoor treatment to workers. Subsistence allowance of Rs.300/- per month with dependants and Rs.200/- per month without dependants for workers. |
| Maternity Benefits | Grant of Rs.1000/- per delivery to a female worker (for first two deliveries). |
| Family Welfare | Monetary incentive @ Rs.500/- per head to the workers for undergoing sterilization. |
| Marriage of the daughter of widow/widower | Financial assistance of Rs.5000 each is given for the marriage of the two daughters of the widow/widower workers, and |
| Funeral Expenses | Rs.1500 for funeral expenses of the deceased workers. |

In addition to above, 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 L.I.C.

Details of the budget allocated for various schemes and expenditure incurred during the last three years.

| | | 2009-2010 | (Rs. In thousand) | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Fund | Sub-Head | BE 2009-10 | FE 2009-10 | Exp. 2009-10 |
| BWWF | Administration | 73012 | 76686 | 75563 |
| | Health | 685460 | 710921 | 626009 |
| | Education | 955130 | 1323045 | 1311750 |
| | Recreation | 2198 | 2308 | 2143 |
| 2230 | Housing | 610000 | 591020 | 595391 |
| 3601 | Housing | 0 | 300 | 0 |
| | Total | 2325800 | 2704280 | 2610856 |

| | | 2010-2011 | (Rs. In thousand) | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Fund | Sub-Head | BE 2010-11 | FE 2010-11 | Exp. 2010-11 |
| BWWF | Administration | 97909 | 93171 | 92163 |
| | Health | 755844 | 681456 | 647155 |
| | Education | 1352376 | 1115847 | 1111471 |
| | Recreation | 2588 | 2094 | 1952 |
| 2230 | Housing | 720283 | 554629 | 470852 |
| 3601 | Housing | 300 | 100 | 0 |
| | Total | 2929300 | 2447297 | 2323593 |

| | | 2011-12 | (Rs. In thousand) | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Fund | Sub-Head | BE 2011-12 | FE 2011-12 | Exp. 2011-12 |
| BWWF | Administration | 83319 | 76220 | 73705 |
| | Health | 697159 | 714834 | 702890 |
| | Education | 818851 | 825834 | 815892 |
| | Recreation | 2488 | 2019 | 2053 |
| 2230 | Housing | 524783 | 523249 | 502181 |
| 3601 | Housing | 100 | 100 | 0 |
| | Total | 2126700 | 2142256 | 2096721 |

| | | 2012-13 | (Rs. In thousand) | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Fund | Sub-Head | BE 2012-13 | FE 2012-13* | Exp.(upto Sept 12) |
| BWWF | Administration | 86906 | | 49551 |
| | Health | 709281 | | 407970 |
| | Education | 857395 | | 245360 |
| | Recreation | 2513 | | 930 |
| 2230 | Housing | 524805 | | 149 |
| 3601 | Housing | 100 | | 0 |
| | Total | 2181000 | 0 | 703960 |

Annexure IV
(vide Para 5.7)

Statement Showing the Final Budget Estimates and Expenditure thereof on various welfare schemes of Beedi Workers for last four

Amount in ths.of rupees

| Year | Name of Scheme | Final Budget Estimates | Expenditure | % of FE over BE |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 2008-09 | Adminstration | 56652 | 56062 | 98.96 |
| | Health | 533242 | 491321 | 92.14 |
| | Education | 1061704 | 1052217 | 99.11 |
| | Recreation | 1955 | 1860 | 95.14 |
| | Housing | 705569 | 680175 | 96.40 |
| | Total | 2359122 | 2281635 | 96.72 |
| 2009-10 | Adminstration | 76636 | 75563 | 98.60 |
| | Health | 710921 | 626009 | 88.06 |
| | Education | 1323045 | 1311750 | 99.15 |
| | Recreation | 2308 | 2143 | 92.85 |
| | Housing | 591020 | 595391 | 100.74 |
| | Total | 2703930 | 2610856 | 96.56 |
| 2010-11 | Adminstration | 76192 | 75184 | 98.68 |
| | Health | 681456 | 647155 | 94.97 |
| | Education | 1115847 | 1111471 | 99.61 |
| | Recreation | 2094 | 1952 | 93.22 |
| | Housing | 554629 | 470852 | 84.89 |
| | Total | 2430218 | 2306614 | 94.91 |
| 2011-12 | Adminstration | 76220 | 73705 | 96.70 |
| | Health | 714834 | 702890 | 98.33 |
| | Education | 825834 | 815892 | 98.80 |
| | Recreation | 2019 | 2043 | 101.19 |
| | Housing | 523349 | 502181 | 95.96 |
| | Total | 2142256 | 2096711 | 97.87 |

It has been noticed that the funds for Beedi Workers Welfare Schemes-year wise have been utilized to the extent of 96% to 98%. Minor savings has been noticed which is due to non utilization of funds by CPWD for construction work and non fulfillment of formalities for release of first and second installment of housing.

The various Labour Welfare Organizations have been asked to formulate the budget proposals on realistic basis to reduce the gap between Budget and expenditure.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (2010-2011)

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

FOURTEENTH SITTING

(18.01.2011)

The Committee sat from 1500 to 1630 hrs. in Room No. '62', Parliament House,
New Delhi

PRESENT

Shri Gobinda Chandra Naskar - Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Shri Tara Chand Bhagora
4. Shri Bhudeo Choudhary
5. Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan
6. Shri Virendra Kumar
7. Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat
8. Shri Bajju Ban Riyan
9. Shri Tufani Saroj
10. Shri Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure

RAJYA SABHA

11. Shri D. Raja
12. Shri Praveen Rashtrapal
13. Shri K.B. Shanappa
14. Ms. Sushila Tiriya
15. Miss Anusuiya Uikey

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. R.K. Chadha, Joint Secretary
2. Ms. J.C. Namchyo, Director
3. Shri Hoti Lal, Additional Director
4. Shri G.C. Dobhal, Under Secretary

NON-OFFICIAL WITNESSES

1. Shri Dharam Das Shukla,
General Secretary,
Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh,
10/103, Keshav Niwas,
Hospital Chowraha, Riwa-1,
Madhya Pradesh.
2. Shri Shyam Sunder Yadav,
General Secretary,
Madhya Pradesh Branch of Indian National
Trade Union Congress,
40, C.J.R.M. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar,
Sukhila, Indore – 452010,
Madhya Pradesh.
3. Shri Jogendranath Tripathy,
General Secretary,
Hind Mazdoor Sabha,
Orissa State Council,
Gudianali, Dhenkanal – 759001,
Odisha.

2. At the outset the Chairman welcomed the non official witnesses to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee then heard their views/suggestions on the subject "Implementation of Schemes for Beedi Workers with particular reference Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes" selected by the Committee for examination during 2010-11. The Committee asked them to prepare a common charter of demands/suggestions after consultation with the trade unions, etc. associated with the welfare of beedi workers in various States and send the charter for consideration of the Committee.

(The witnesses then withdrew)

3. A verbatim record of the proceedings was kept.
4. The Committee also considered the memorandum regarding dealing with the representations/news-items on SCs and STs related to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Keeping in view the large number of representations received by the Committee as well news-items published in newspapers on every alternative day related to atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Committee felt that it may be

difficult to solicit the approval of the Speaker under Direction 60 (1) of the "Directions by the Speaker Lok Sabha" for obtaining factual position/comments from State Governments on case to case basis. The Committee, therefore, authorized the Chairman on behalf of the Committee:

- (i) to obtain a general permission, as and when a need arises, from the Speaker under the provisions of Direction 60(1) for reference of representations, news-items related to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to seek factual position or their comments on the issues; and
- (ii) to obtain general permission from the Speaker to undertake on-the-spot study visits by the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to such area(s)/persons where cases of atrocities on SCs and STs are reported from or through representation or news reports. Such on-the-spot study visits of the Committee may be treated as separate from the routine study tours of the Committee and thus may not be confined to the present limit of maximum 10 days or two tours in a year undertaken by any Committee of the Lok Sabha.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES
(2012-2013)**

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

NINTH SITTING

(9.11.2012)

The Committee sat from 1500 to 1615 hrs. in Room No. '62', Parliament House,
New Delhi

PRESENT

Shri Gobinda Chandra Naskar - Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Smt. Jyoti Dhurve
4. Shri Mohinder Singh Kaypee
5. Shri Mithilesh Kumar
6. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal
7. Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat
8. Shri Bajju Ban Riyan
9. Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki
10. Shri Bhausaheb Rajram Wakchaure

RAJYA SABHA

11. Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot
12. Dr. Bhalchandra Munekar
13. Shri Ishwar Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. R.K. Chadha, Additional Secretary
2. Shri D.R. Shekhar, Director
3. Shri S. Chatterjee, Additional Director

WITNESSES

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

- 1 Shri Mrutyunjay Sarangi, Secretary (L&E)
2. Shri Anil Swarup, Additional Secretary/DGLW

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee. The Committee then considered the draft Report on the subject "Working of Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)" and adopted the same.

(The witnesses were called in)

2. The Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Thereafter, the Secretary (L&E) made a Power Point Presentation on the subject "Implementation of schemes for Beedi workers with particular reference to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes". Subsequently, the members of the Committee raised certain issues on the subject and sought clarifications which were responded to by the Secretary (L&E) and Additional Secretary/DGLW.

3. While concluding, the Chairman requested the representative of the Ministry to send the points not covered during the evidence on which further information has been desired by the Committee to this Secretariat.

(The witnesses then withdrew)

4. A verbatim record of the proceedings was kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES
(2012-2013)**

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

EIGHTEENTH SITTING

(17.4.2013)

The Committee sat from 1200 to 1315 hrs. in Committee Room 'E', Basement, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi

PRESENT

Shri Gobinda Chandra Naskar - Chairman

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri M. Anandan
3. Shri Bhudeo Choudhary
4. Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan
5. Dr. M. Jagannath
6. Shri Mithilesh Kumar
7. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal
8. Shri Bharat Ram Meghwal
9. Shri Bajju Ban Riyan
10. Shri C.L. Ruala
11. Shri Bhausahab Rajram Wakchaure

RAJYA SABHA

12. Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot
13. Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste
14. Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar
15. Shri D. Raja
16. Shri Veer Singh
17. Shri A.V. Swamy

SECRETARIAT

1. Dr. R.K. Chadha, Additional Secretary
2. Shri D.R. Shekhar, Director
3. Shri S. Chatterjee, Additional Director

WITNESSES

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 1 Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava, Additional Secretary
2. Dr. A. Bhattacharya, Joint Secretary

OFFICIALS OF UNITED BANK OF INDIA

1. Shri Deepak Narang, Executive Director
2. Shri Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chief General Manager

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee. The Committee then considered the draft Report on the subject "Implementation of schemes for Beedi Workers with particular reference to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes" and adopted the same.

(The witnesses were called in)

2. The Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) and United Bank of India.
3. The Committee then took evidence of the official of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services) and representatives of the United Bank of India on the subject "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in United Bank of India and credit facilities provided by the Bank to them". Hon'ble Members raised certain issues on the subject and sought clarifications which were responded to by the official of Ministry of Finance and representatives of United Bank of India. On certain points on which information was not readily available, Ministry of Finance/United Bank of India assured to furnish later on.
4. The evidence was completed.
(The witnesses then withdrew)
5. A verbatim record of the proceedings was kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

Summary of Conclusions/Recommendations contained in the Report

| Sl. No. | Para No. | Summary of Conclusions/Recommendations |
|---------|----------|--|
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 1. | 2.13 | <p>As regards the identification and separate records of SC/ST Beedi workers, Committee are of the view that at this stage there is no need to make separate study for identification of SC/ST Beedi Workers as with the enumeration on the basis of caste and community of the Beedi Workers under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), the Ministry will be able to get the exact figures through digitalized data without any mistake. The Committee, however, are surprised to note that 24.8% of identity cards made for Beedi Workers having questionable validity. Committee take a serious view on it and strongly recommend that the Government should quickly conduct a study to identify the fake/invalid identity cards so that genuine Beedi Workers may not be deprived of their legitimate right of the various schemes envisaged by the Government for their welfare. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made by the Government in this regard at the earliest.</p> |
| 2. | 2.14 | <p>The Committee are dismayed to note that only Malda and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal were selected for conducting survey of Beedi Workers. The Committee would like to be apprised of the criteria for selection of districts for survey. The survey should be made category-wise in such a manner that exact number of SCs/STs Beedi Workers is identified. The Committee also recommend that surveys of such nature should be made in other States also. The Committee are also distressed to note that there are no means to verify the credentials of applicants as they are actively engaged in rolling beedis. The Committee</p> |

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| | | <p>would like to direct the Ministry to act in a proactive manner and draw out a strategical plan for verification of commercial as well as home based beedi workers. The Committee are dissatisfied to note that identity cards issues decades back have not been renewed. Moreover, some of beedi Workers family have more than one identity card. The ID card facilitates a beedi worker to reap the benefits available to them in the form of allowances etc. and thus streamlining the method for their issuance is of utmost importance. The Committee also recommend that the credentials of the applicants should be verified to avoid issue of fake/multiple identity cards.</p> |
| 3. | 3.15 | <p>The Committee note with concern that only 7 hospitals and 204 dispensaries are there in all over the country to cater to the needs of the 64 lakhs beedi workers. The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that 4 hospitals and 40 dispensaries have also been sactioned for beedi workers. The Committee desire that these hospitals and dispensaries should be made functional expeditiously. The Committee observe that most of these hospitals are located at far off places beyond the access of beedi workers due to which they are not in a position to avail the medical facilities. The Committee find that the common health problems associated with beedi rolling are respiratory, asthma, bodyache, headache, eyestrain, TB and spondilitis. These adversely affect the health of the beedi rollers. The Committee strongly feel that these workers need specialized, accessible, affordable and regular medicare. The Committee, therefore, desire that some alternative arrangements be made urgently for extending specialized medical treatment. Besides, the Committee recommend to ply mobile vans equipped with specialized doctor, nurse, medicines, etc. to facilitate the beedi workers residing in the</p> |

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| | | remote areas where hospitals and dispensaries are not available. |
| 4. | 3.16 | <p>The Committee observe that most of the beedi workers are poor, SC/ST and under BPL category. They are unable to spend money on the medical care. The Committee, therefore, recommend that cashless treatment should be given in recognized hospitals. In case they are not able to avail the facility at recognised hospital the actual amount for all the diseases should be reimbursed to SC/ST beedi workers. Further, the Committee also observe that only beedi workers working in organized sector are eligible to avail medical facilities from ESI hospitals. The Committee feel that the opening of new hospitals and dispensaries are alone not sufficient to cater to the medical needs of the beedi workers. The scope and benefits under ESI are more such as leave encashment during treatment period, etc. The Committees, therefore, recommend that all beedi workers including SCs and STs working under contractors or home base beedi workers should be brought under ESI Corporation.</p> |
| 5. | 3.17 | <p>The Committee feel happy to note that all beedi workers have been brought under the ambit of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna but at the same time take serious note of the fact that enumeration under RSBY has not yet been completed causing delay in providing benefits of RSBY to SCs/STs beedi workers. The Committee, therefore, recommend that enumeration work should be expedited and the Committee should be apprised of the exact number of SCs/STs beedi workers in the country.</p> |
| 6. | 3.18 | <p>The Committee appreciate that so far 270 hospitals have been de-panelled only due to misuse of smart card but at the same time observe that the de-</p> |

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| | | <p>panelling of hospital and shortcomings in issue of smart cards in Maharashtra causes hardship to beedi workers for non-availability of medical facilities. The Committee, therefore, in order to bridge gap of de-panelled hospitals vis-a-vis shortcomings in issue of smart cards strongly recommend to strengthen the monitoring system albeit de-panelling so that basic purpose to Health facilities to the beedi worker may not be defeated. The Committee, therefore, be apprised the progress made by the Government in this regard.</p> |
| 7. | 3.23 | <p>The Committee express their displeasure to note that there is no scheme to open new school/colleges in the area inhabited by beedi workers. The Committee observe that the Government on the one hand is introducing various schemes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, etc. for the development of education and on the other hand not opening schools/colleges in areas inhabited by beedi workers including SCs/STs. The Committee are of the view that it is the education which can bring significant change in the socio-economic status of the SC & ST community. Educating specially to the children is of paramount importance for overall development of the community. Government, NGOs and Corporate Sector should work together to educate the children of Beedi Workers. Educationists should work out of a model where children are encouraged to go to school instead of taking up the job of making beedis. NCERT or even other organisations may conduct detailed study and submit a proposal to involve all the stakeholders in improving education level of the children of SC & ST community. This may include opening of new schools providing incentives to join the school, discourage dropouts, provide hostel facility, provision of scholarships, etc. The Committee, therefore, recommend that new schools/colleges should be</p> |

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| | | opened where schools are inadequate to cater the needs. |
| 8. | 3.24 | <p>The Committee note that entire family including wards of SC/ST beedi workers work for the whole day to meet the target of securing full day wage. In such a pernicious circumstances, children forgo perform their education to supplement the family income. The Committee, therefore, desire that suitable mechanism be evolved and awareness campaign regarding various schemes for the development of education should be launched to check drop out ratio so that children of beedi workers could get at least the elementary education.</p> |
| 9. | 3.25 | <p>The Committee observe that the cost of higher study has been enhanced manifold and the condition of beedi workers is worsening day by day. The Committee feel happy to note that there is proposal to enhance scholarships from 8000/- to 15000/- for professional degree course. The Committee, therefore desire that this enhancement proposal should be implemented immediately. The Committee also recommend that scholarship upto graduation level should also be step up. The Committee, however, dismay to note that the details of the scholarship to the wards of SC/ST beedi workers is not available and there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to give training to the wards of SC/ST Beedi workers. The Committee strongly recommend that training should be imparted to the wards of SC/ST beedi workers. The Committee would like to be apprised about the details of scholarship given to the wards of SCs/STs beedi workers. The Committee desire that wards of SC/ST beedi workers should be given both the scholarships- scholarship of SC/ST as per their entitlement and Scholarship of beedi workers.</p> |

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| 10. | 3.31 | <p>The Committee note the steep hike in the material and construction cost of houses. Subsidy given to the beedi workers is too less to construct a simple house. The Committee feel happy to note that there is a proposal under consideration of the Government for enhancement of subsidy from Rs.40000/- to Rs.75000/-. The Committee, therefore, desire that the said proposal should be implemented immediately. The Committee also recommend that Housing loan to beedi workers particularly SC/ST beedi workers should be sanctioned by banks/financial institutions on interest free/subsidised rate of interest.</p> |
| 11. | 3.32 | <p>The Committee note that under Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS), the workers have to deposit Rs.5000/- after the administrative approval of Director General Labour Welfare Office which are refundable. The Committee find that it is very difficult for a poor SC/ST beedi workers to arrange Rs.5000/- for getting subsidy of Rs.40,000/- under RIHS. The Committee, therefore, recommend that submitting of Rs.5000/- by SC/ST beedi workers should be done away with.</p> |
| 12. | 3.33 | <p>The Committee note that Evaluation Study of RIHS 2007 has been conducted. The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of the evaluation study. The Committee also recommend that similar evaluation study should also be conducted w.r.t other welfare schemes i.e. Health care and education.</p> |
| 13. | 3.35 | <p>The Committee note that an amount of Rs.10,000/- for natural death and Rs.25,000/- for accidental death is being paid to the heirs of the beedi workers. The Committee feel that the compensation is very low and recommend that it should be enhanced</p> |

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| | | from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.50,000/- for natural death and from Rs.25,000 to Rs.1,00,000 for accidental death. |
| 14. | 3.36 | <p>The Committee appalled to note that financial assistance of Rs.5,000/- is given for marriage of first two daughters. The Committee find this assistance amount rather too paltry to help a beedi worker to solemnize a marriage due to increase in cost of various items and therefore recommend to enhance the amount to 50,000/- for marriage of two daughters.</p> |
| 15. | 4.6 | <p>The Committee observe that the responsibility of implementation of all Welfare schemes are given to the Welfare Commissioners of nine regions in the country. The Committee also observe that Welfare Commissioners of Allahabad, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Nagpur regions have given jurisdiction of 6, 10, 4 and 4 States respectively for implementing various schemes for beedi workers. The Committee observe that it is not only very difficult for the Welfare Commissioner who is holding responsibility of more than two States for proper monitoring, supervising and implementing various schemes but also for the beedi worker to express their difficulties to the Commissioner. The Committee, therefore, desire in order to have effective working and monitoring of Welfare Commissioner and to facilitate liaison/accessibility of beedi workers to their officer it is essential that a responsibility of not more than one State should be entrusted to a Welfare Commissioner. The Committee also recommend that the Ministry without further ado should strengthen the Welfare Commissioners with proper logistic support to implement, supervise and monitor various schemes meant for the welfare of beedi workers.</p> |

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| 16. | 4.7 | <p>The Committee find that there is one post vacant of Welfare Commissioner. The Committee also note that only one ST Welfare Commissioner belong to SC/ST Community out of eight. The Committee would like to stress that Welfare Commissioners are instrumental in execution and implementation of Welfare Schemes for beedi workers. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend that this post should not be kept vacant. The Committee also desire that representation of SC/ST community be included as per guidelines of the Government of India for effectively looking after the interest of SC/ST beedi workers in the country.</p> |
| 17. | 5.9 | <p>The Committee note that Beedi Workers Welfare Fund set up under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act 1976, is financed through a levy of cess by the way of excise duty on manufactured beedis. The Committee find that cess is the only source of finance of welfare schemes for beedi workers. The Committee note that expenditure on Welfare Schemes is increasing every year and the Government has decided to enhance the rate of cess and to withdraw the exemption given to beedi manufacturer of having less than 20 lakhs beedis in a year. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 be amended in a manner so as to enhance rate of cess and to withdraw the exemption being given to the beedi manufacturers having turnover of less than 20 lakh beedis per year. The Committee also recommend that in the meantime, till the Cess Act is amended, additional budgetary support be obtained from the Ministry of Finance for funding the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund so that welfare activities of Beedi Workers are not impeded. The Committee also desire that the Ministry should rope in corporate houses for extending support for the welfare</p> |

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| | | of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Beedi Workers under Corporate Social Responsibility. |
| 18. | 6.5 | <p>The Committee note that Central Advisory Committee is constituted under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act 1976 to monitor the Welfare Scheme formulated under the Welfare Funds as well as to advise the Workers Welfare Organisation for creation of new schemes/modifications of existing schemes to enhance the benefits to be provided to beedi workers. The Committee note that out of 14 State Advisory Committees (SACs) under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Rules 1978, 4 SACs are pertaining to States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are still under re-constitution. The Committee urge the Government to take up the matter of reconstitution of SACs on priority so that necessary advise on matters related to administration of above fund may be sought and utilized for the welfare of beedi workers. The Committee appalled to note that there is no provisions for nomination of local MP/MLA in the Central Advisory Committee.</p> <p>The Committee strongly express their displeasure in the matter that the members of SCs/STs Associations are also not being included in the Central Advisory Committee and State Advisory Committees. The Committee are of the view that the relevant Act should be suitably amended to include local MP/MLA and Members from SCs/STs Associations in this Central/State Advisory Committee. The Committee also feel that the beedi workers belonging to SC/ST community may be induced to form Associations/Self Help Group at Village Panchayat/Municipal ward level to spread awareness among their community about the welfare schemes meant for them and look after their own development.</p> |

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| 19. | 7.2 | <p>The Committee note that very meager amount of pension is paid to the Beedi workers under Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Pension Act, 1952 and there is no separate pension scheme for Beedi workers. The Committee are of the view that a separate pension scheme should be launched under social security scheme of the beedi workers. The Committee also strongly recommend that the amount of minimum pension should be fixed at Rs.1500/- per month.</p> |
| 20. | 7.4 | <p>The Committee are surprised to note the lukewarm response of the Ministry that the Minimum Wages Act 1948 allow the respective State Government to fix the wages of beedi workers. The Committee, therefore, recommend to instruct the regional Welfare Commissioner of all the nine zones to look into the matter on priority and to ensure that all beedi workers should get the minimum wages fixed by the Government and apprise the Committee.</p> |
| 21. | 7.7 | <p>The Committee note that no survey in regard to the impact of anti-smoking campaign has been conducted so far. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Government should take initiative to conduct a survey on the impact of anti-smoking campaign on the livelihood of beedi workers. The Committee also recommend that vocational training which are identified by the Welfare Commissioner should be imparted to the jobless beedi workers and their children at their earliest and apprise the Committee.</p> |
| 22. | 7.10 | <p>The Committee note that the directives issued on 19.11.1991 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court are still under examination with the concerned State Governments and its organisation. The Committee take a serious note for non-implementation of</p> |

directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court by the Ministry so far. The Committee, therefore, desire that the directives of the SC should be implemented forthwith and the Committee may be apprised suitably.