

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2963
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014
MEDICAL CENTRES FOR BEEDI WORKERS
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of medical care centres for the beedi workers set up in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the health condition of the beedi workers in the country, particularly the women workers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any study has been conducted to find out the harmful impact of this profession on the workers' health; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken to safeguard the health of these workers and their rehabilitation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

- (a): At present 240 medical care centers are running all over the country for the welfare of the beedi workers. Statement is annexed.
- (b) to (d): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide letter dt. 03/05/13 informed that Indian Council of Medical Research's NIOH, Ahmedabad has conducted survey on Beedi workers during 2007-2010 and also in 1980.

The summary of studies is as under:

Beedi Industry is one of the country's oldest industries and beedi is being manufactured in different states of India. The beedi workers raised medical complaints such as giddiness, loss of appetite, chronic diarrhea, dimness of vision, burning and itching of eye, cough, expectoration, breathlessness, headache, pain in neck, joint pain, lower back pain, pain in hands & legs and peripheral neuropathy. Glossitis, angular stomatitis and chronic bronchitis were also significant. PFT values of beedi binders are gradually decreased in non-smokers and ex-smokers as the duration of work exposure increased. As a whole about 23% of beedi binders had respiratory function impairments, problem being more in males as compared to females. The study indicated that both urinary nicotine and cotinine levels among beedi binders were much higher than the beedi smokers reported. No separate survey has been conducted on health condition for women beedi workers.

- (e): The Ministry of Labour and Employment has taken steps for rehabilitation and also to impart vocational training to the down-trodden beedi workers through modular employment scheme to provide them alternative source of income to improve their health.