

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1967
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015
BEEDI WORKERS
Mukherjee Shri Abhijit

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to rehabilitate Beedi workers in the country who are rendered unemployed due to closure of some beedi factories;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of various social security schemes being implemented by the Government for the welfare of Beedi workers in the country; and
- (d) the number of Beedi workers benefitted from the said schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): Yes, Madam. Cognizant of the slow decline of Beedi industry, Ministry of Labour and Employment had initiated a visionary scheme to provide vocational training to Beedi workers since the year 2008-09 so as to empower them with the skill to find an alternative and sustainable livelihood. The scheme is a non-plan scheme funded by the Beedi Workers Cess Fund specially created for welfare of Beedi workers. The implementation machinery is the same Labour Welfare Organization of the Ministry working in the field levels.

(b): The vocational training includes 308 modular employable schemes approved by the Director General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) of the Ministry of Labour & Employment. The skill trainings are imparted through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Khadi Village Industries Commission, Regional Vocational Training Institute for women and reputed NGOs.

(c): The details of various social security schemes being implemented by the Government for Beedi workers are as follows:

(i) Life and accident cover through Group Insurance Scheme of LIC, as per the following scale:

Natural death – Rs. 10,000/-,

Accidental death/total permanent disability– Rs. 25,000/-

Partial permanent disability due to an accident– Rs. 12,500/-

The beneficiary does not have to pay any premium for the above life and disability cover.

(ii) Financial Assistance amounting to Rs. 5000/- is provided to the Widow/Widower of Beedi workers for wedding of their first two daughters. Similarly, funeral assistance amounting to Rs. 1500/- is also provided in case of death of the Beedi workers.

(iii) Housing Subsidy: Under the Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS), 2007 with effect from 01.04.2007, housing subsidy of Rs. 40000/- is provided to Beedi workers for construction of new houses.

(d): The number of beedi workers benefitted under the social security schemes is at ANNEXURE-A.