

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:475  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2014  
BEEDI WORKERS  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) the number of beedi workers in the country, gender and State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the impact of anti-tobacco campaign on beedi industry and its workers across the country and if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether a large number of beedi workers suffer from TB, cancer and other tobacco related diseases and if so, the details thereof and corrective action taken thereon along with the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the beedi workers are deprived of the benefits of various welfare schemes implemented by the Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the mechanism being put in place to ensure that the benefits of the schemes actually reach to the beneficiaries?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 475 FOR 11.08.2014 BY SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI REGARDING BEEDI WORKERS.

(a): The total estimated number of beedi workers in the country gender and State/UT-wise is at Annexure-I.

(b): No study has been conducted so far to assess the impact of anti-tobacco campaign on beedi industry and its workers across the country.

(c): Yes, instances of beedi workers suffering from TB, cancer and other tobacco related diseases have come to the knowledge of the Ministry. Keeping in view the health problems of the beedi workers, expeditious efforts have been made to provide for hospitals and dispensaries across the country for their treatment after a survey was made to find out the concentration of beedi workers areas. In cases of patient requiring specialized treatment, he/she is referred to the State Government Hospitals or empanelled Hospitals for further treatment. Apart from above health care infrastructure, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, an all India IT enabled Health Care scheme has been extended to Beedi Workers.

(d) & (e): No, this office has not received any specific complaint that the beedi workers have been deprived of the benefits of various welfare Schemes implemented by the Government of India.

Further, the Government implements various schemes as per Schematic provisions to provide the benefits to the poor Beedi Workers and their dependent. The benefits provided to the beedi workers under various schemes through Beedi Workers Welfare Fund during the last three years is at Annexure-II.