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Title : Need to release educational scholarship for the children of Beedi workers in Tenkasi Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI M. APPADURAI (TENKASI): Beedi rolling is an important livelihood activity in and around my Tenkasi constituency. Thousands of school going children are engaged in this collective family occupation beyond their school hours. Based on the recommendation from the Deputy Welfare Commissioner of Union Labour Welfare Ministry these children get annual education scholarship. But in 2005-06 instead of the total scholarship amount to the tune of Rs. 11,23,70,940/-, only a sum of Rs. 4,13,04,240 has been released. These poor children of Beedi workers are now languishing in abject poverty and deprivations due to the non-release of Rs. 7,10,60,700/-. Hence I urge upon the Union Labour Welfare Ministry to release the Education scholarship immediately. It is also necessary to fill in the vacant post of Chief Medical Officers in exclusive dispensaries – Alangulam, Surandai – meant for Beedi workers as it deprived these workers and family members to get timely medical assistance easily. Hence I urge upon the Union Health Ministry and Labour Welfare Ministry to initiate action in this regard at the earliest.