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Title : Need to look into the problems of Beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, crores of poor people are dependent on bidi making and other such tobacco products. Recently, the Ministry of Health of the Government of India issued a G.O. No.297 which states that on all tobacco products a pictorial graphic of the human skull and two bones should be printed. This is a very terrorizing picture. Bidi is smoked mostly by poor people and most of the bidi makers are women folk. Crores of people throughout India are involved in bidi making. In Andhra Pradesh, particularly in the Telengana region there are 10 lakh people who are involved in bidi making in Karim Nagar, Mahboobnagar, Nizamabad and Medak districts of Andhra Pradesh. This pictorial graphic is creating terror among the poor people and thereby bidi production has come down drastically. This will render crores of people jobless throughout the country and more so in Karim Nagar, Mahboobnagar, Nizamabad and Medak districts of Andhra Pradesh and they will lose their earnings.

Sir, when this legislation was passed, all the political parties had felt that this dangerous symbol should not be printed on tobacco products and an alternative should be thought of. The other day, the Labour Minister came to Andhra Pradesh and made a statement that this legislation would be amended. I think it would be proper if the Minister makes the statement in the House when the Parliament is in Session. Otherwise, it would mean that he had made that statement only for political reasons. So, I would request the Government of India to immediately withdraw G.O. No.297 so that this dangerous symbol is removed and people should also be educated about the ill effects of tobacco products.[\[R77\]](#)