

Title: Need to review the increase in excise duty on hand made beedi -laid.

SHRI M. APPADURAI (TENKASI): The Union Finance Minister in this year's Budget has proposed increase in the levy of excise duty on hand-made Beedi from Rs. 7/- to Rs. 11/- on bundle of thousand Beedies. This is an increase to the tune of 60%. But a mere 5% excise duty increase has been proposed on cigarette. Beedi industries workers are poor people. In Tamil Nadu we have about 15 lakhs of Beedi workers. Among them about 5 lakhs of people working in the Beedi industry live in Trunelveli District. Even among those Beedi workers about 4 lakhs of people live in my Tenkasi constituency. This excise duty increase will definitely hit them hard.

The Union Government which has been introducing several welfare schemes for people living below poverty line must consider helping the Beedi industry and their workmen by providing livelihood to many poor people. Hence I urge upon the Union Government not to increase the excise duty on hand made Beedi as it will affect the Beedi industry as well as the poor Beedi workers and their families.