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Title: Regarding problems being faced by the beedi workers in the country.

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to raise an important issue. In India, there are, at least, one crore *beedi* workers and more than 50 lakh workers in allied sectors such as, tobacco, *kendu patta* and transport. The Tobacco Act was passed in 2003 but recently a notification has been issued which will be imposed from 1st April, 2015. According to this notification, 85 per cent of the *beedi* cover packet should be printed with statutory warning. It will decrease the demand of *beedi* slowly and finally the *beedi* industry will be ruined. We are not against such Act or notification. But such a huge number of poor *beedi* workers will be jobless.

Madam, with your permission, I would like to say that in my district, Murshidabad, at least, 50 per cent *beedi* workers are there and out of that, 50 per cent are woman workers. They have no other jobs to do. So, they will be jobless. Finally, they might commit suicide. It is a very serious problem.

Therefore, I would request the Government to rehabilitate them for a better livelihood and save them and their families from hunger.