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Title: Regarding problems being faced by Bidi workers in Solapur Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.

*ADV. SHARADKUMAR MARUTI BANSODE (SOLAPUR): Madam Speaker, kindly allow me to ask my question in Marathi. There are around 75000 women beedi workers in my constituency, Solapur. WHO has issued a notification which made it mandatory to cover the 85% of the label of beedi bundle for the health warning? Hence, most of the beedi factory owners have shut their shop during last month and 75000 beedi workers today are facing hardships. They have been left without a job and future.

In fact, the Parliamentary Standing Committee had recommended that only 50% of the label of beedi bundle be used for printing the statutory health warning. But that has not been accepted, now it is not possible practically to print necessary information because there is no space left for printing the brand name and manufacturing date. If we do not accept this recommendation, the beedi producers would stop the production. These beedi workers are living in distress for last one month and are facing the problem of earning their livelihood.

Government of Maharashtra is providing food to these distressed women workers through Food Security Scheme. Hon'ble Praniti Susheel Kumar Shinde, MLA has started a Food Bank there. Subhash Babu Deshmukh Ex-MP, has started a food shelter for them.(Interruption) Hon. Kharge Ji, we are facing greater hardships than you.(Interruption) We have more difficulties.

Comrade Adam master is roaming here and there with 10,000 women workers. Don't they have any self respect? Are they supposed to suffer? Shouldn't their children get education? Shouldn't their daughters get married? If they remain unemployed, how they would be able to lead their lives. Solapur is facing drought conditions, too. Therefore, I would like to urge upon Hon'ble Prime Minister, our powerful leaders and others to find a solution to this issue. Either they should get some kind of alternative employment or this condition of printing space should be scrapped. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : कुँवर पुष्पेन्द् सिंह वंदेल को एडवोकेट शरद बनसोडे द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।