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Title: Need to clear the proposal of Government of Maharashtra for construction of dwelling units for Beedi workers in Solapur.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I wish to invite the attention of this House to the housing problem of the cottage industries' workers, especially the beedi workers, over fifty thousand of whom live in Solapur city of Maharashtra. In the absence of proper housing facilities, they are forced to live in slums and jhuggis and have no access to sanitation facilities.

The State Government of Maharashtra have submitted a proposal for construction of 10,000 dwelling units for beedi workers in Solapur city at an estimated cost of Rs.60,000 per unit, of which the State Government is ready to share one-third, that is, Rs. 20,000 per unit. Another one-third cost is sought to be contributed by the Union Government and the rest one-third is proposed to be shared by the worker concerned.

The proposal is pending approval of the Central Government since 1997. I would, therefore, request the hon. Labour Minister to expedite sanction of the scheme. I have addressed two letters to the hon. Minister to expedite the matter. I hope, the hon. Minister would respond soon.