

Title: Need for uniform wages and allowances for Bidi-Cigar workers throughout the country.

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE (KOPERGAON): Bidi workers in the country are facing serious problems these days. Their wages, D.A. and other facilities vary from State to State, particularly in Ahmednagar, Nasik and Pune districts of Maharashtra where the Bidi workers are being paid low wages in comparison to other States. Thus, there is need for a uniform wage and allowance policy for these workers throughout the country.

The major complaint of Bidi workers in Maharashtra is that they do not get their Provident Fund and pension amount through their bankers. They have to approach other banks which is very difficult task. They should be allowed to avail their Provident Fund and monthly pension from their banks. Other rules, like Gratuity, Pregnancy Leave and other regulations of Bidi-cigar workers' Rules, are not followed. This results into another jolt to Bidi workers who are deprived of these facilities. This should be applied accordingly.

Bidi Workers Welfare Fund should be covered to provide House Loan, cancer treatment and other such emergencies to Bidi workers. This is the time that Government must take appropriate steps to help lakhs of bidi workers in the country.