

on the conduct of examinations.

University has assured the examinees through a press release that all representations received from them will be promptly attended to.

The Delhi University is also looking into all aspects of the matter through its internal mechanism. In order to assure objectivity in investigation so that weak links in the arrangements and exact manner in which such undesirable things have happened, are properly identified, the Govt. is advising the Vice-Chancellor to institute an enquiry under an eminent outside person in addition to the internal enquiry the University is pursuing. The Govt. is keeping a close watch on the situation.

20.13 hrs.

BEEDI AND CIGAR WORKERS  
(CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT)  
AMENDMENT BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.  
SANGMA): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 has been enacted to provide for the welfare of the workers in beedi and cigar establishments and to regulate the conditions of their work and matters connected therewith.

Beedi and Cigar Industry, essentially an agro-based industry is mainly concentrated in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. It provides employment to about 44.72 lakh workers most

of whom belong to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. The industry is, by and large, unorganised as only a small percentage of productions undertaken in regular establishments.

The Act is enforced by the State Governments. They were experiencing certain difficulties in effective implementation of the Act. In order to overcome such difficulties and to enlarge the scope of coverage of beedi workers, a Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 30th December, 1987 and was passed by the House on 14th March, 1989. While it was pending in Lok Sabha, the 8th Lok Sabha was dissolved and the Bill lapsed. The same Bill had been re-introduced in Rajya Sabha on 30th May, 1990. The Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on 27.4.93. The Bill seeks to make amendments which would not only make provisions regarding conditions of work more favourable for the workers but also facilitate enforcement of the existing provisions.

Some of the proposed amendments are:-

- (i) To extend the coverage of the Act to employees working in godowns and warehouses and also those who are working with the permission of or under agreement with both the employer and contractor;
- (ii) To make the provision regarding calculation of overtime wages to the workers employed on piece-rate basis more clear and unambiguous;
- (iii) To confer on the appellate authority the powers of civil court for the purpose of compelling attendance of witnesses and compulsory production of records;
- (iv) To reduce the number of female employees from 50 to 30 for providing a suitable creche facilities inside the industrial premises by the employer for the children under the age of six years of such female employees.

(v) To make penal provisions more stringent;

[English]

(vi) To empower the State Governments to prescribe the time limit within which a dispute between an employer and employee relating to the issue of raw materials by the employers to the employees, payment of wages for the beedi and cigar or both, rejected by the employer etc. shall be referred for settlement.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

5. India has ratified the Labour Inspection Convention No. 81 of the International Labour Organisation. Accordingly, the Bill also seeks to introduce a provision that Labour Inspectors shall treat as absolutely confidential the source of any complaint regarding the breach of any provisions of the Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration is consideration of the Bill:

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 10 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted*

6. These amendments to the Act would go a long way to remove the administrative and practical difficulties faced by the implementing agencies in enforcing the provisions of the Act.

*Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.*

7. With these words, I commend the Bill for unanimous support of this august House. I should also thank the former Labour Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan for bringing this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, the enacting Formula and the long title stand part of the Bill

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): This Bill was brought forward by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and at that time the BJP, the CPI the CPI (M) all of them supported the Janata Dal. Now it be passed without discussion in a good sense.

*Clauses 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): I beg to move:

[Translation]

"That the Bill be passed."

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a question of the fate of the one crore Beedi Workers. Such a law should be enacted as may benefit all the workers. Nobody is there to take care of their interests.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted*