

**Expenditure on Welfare of Beedi Workers
out of Cess Collection**

Statement

*397. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount collected during 1987-88 and 1988-89 so far by way of cess under the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976;

(b) the amount spent therefrom for the welfare scheme of beedi workers during this period; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALAVIYA) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

The total amount collected during 1987-88 and 1988-89 so far by way of cess under the Beedi Welfare Cess Act, 1976 as reported by the Collectors of Central Excise is as under :

(in lakhs)

Year	Amount
1987-88	1186
1988-89 (upto June '88)	264

The expenditure in respect of Beedi Workers Welfare Fund for the year 1987-88 and 1988-89 (April 1988 to June 1988) is as under :

(Rs in lakhs)

Sl. No.	1987-88	1988-89 April to June* 1988
1. Administration	48.14	14.28
2. Health	224.83	85.45
3. Education	92.52	—
4. Recreation	1.28	0.34
5. Housing	1.36	0.06
6. Water Supply	nil	—
7. Assistance for construction of godowns and worksheds	0.35	—
8. Grants-in-aid to State Governments	48.00	—
Total :	416.48	100.13
1. Loan for housing	2.98	—
Grand total :	419.46	100.13

*Expenditure for Karma Region upto May 1988 only is included.

SHRI C. SAMBU : Sir, the Union Government collected crores of rupees from the beedi workers in the name of cess. But the Central Government did not do anything to the poor beedi workers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the facilities extended by the Centre for the welfare of a large number of unorganised sector of beedi workers in general and in Andhra Pradesh in particular, and were they efforts made by the Centre to bring the unorganised beedi workers into the organised sector.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY) : Sir, the schemes and facilities given to the beedi workers are reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals scheme for purchase of spectacles, scheme for Leprosy relief, maternity benefits, setting up of hospitals and dispensaries, Group Insurance scheme for beedi workers, Build your Own House Scheme, Housing Scheme for economically weaker sections of beedi workers, construction of worksheds and godowns, scheme for award of scholarships to sons and daughters of the beedi workers, supply of one set of school dress, Scheme for supply of colour Television set to cooperative Societies.

MR. SPEAKER : You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY : There are various schemes for them.

SHRI C. SAMBU : Sir, though the schemes are there, they are not implemented in proper manner.

My second supplementary is, is there any proposal to issue identity cards to beedi workers and whether minimum wages scheme is implemented for the beedi workers in our country ?

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY : The question specially relates to the welfare measures taken from the beedi workers cess fund. It does not relate to the minimum wages of the beedi workers.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister itself clearly shows that a lot of amount is being collected as cess, which is expected to be spent specially for

the schemes and programmes mentioned by the hon. Minister just now in the detail. But the expenditure details show that the amount is not spent. I would like to know, in view of the shortages on the expenditure side, whether the Government will take all necessary steps to see that more funds are utilised for various schemes like housing. You have given only Rs. 3 lakhs as loans for housing though there are several crores of rupees lying unspent. Will the Government take necessary steps for providing loans, for housing as well as water supply in those areas where the beedi workers are residing in abundance. There are health hazards due to the beedi making and if you provide drinking water supply, it would be quite essential for them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether concrete measures will be taken to fully utilise this amount intended for the welfare of the beedi workers.

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY : It is for the concerned State Governments to send these schemes. There are advisory committees in the concerned States. It is they who prepare the scheme and prepare the budget. These schemes are known to the State Governments. It is their responsibility under the Act. They prepare the scheme and send the budget and when we received this, we always approve the scheme and provide the funds. The responsibility lies with the State Government, not with us.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : The hon. Minister has mentioned a number of schemes for the beedi workers. May I remind him that request for a small 10 bedded hospital for beedi workers in Ghosaiganj in my constituency is pending since 1983. The hon. Minister himself has assured that he would sanction it. But unfortunately it is not even now finalised and not sanctioned so far.

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY : The proposal for setting up of a hospital at Ghosaiganj has been approved recently.

[Translation]

Flyover at Shamli

*399. **SHRI AKHTAR HASAN :** Will