

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5437

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005

MEDICAL FACILITIES TO BEEDI WORKERS

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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the medical facilities available for Beedi Workers in the country;
- (b) whether several Beedi workers have lost their lives owing to lack of modern medical facilities in the hospitals for Beedi workers in the country particularly in Maharashtra;
- (c) if so, the number of Beedi workers who have lost their lives during the last year and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) the hospitals which are facing problem of shortage of medicines and staff and the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government for the modernization of hospitals for Beedi workers during the last one year;
- (e) whether any concrete scheme has been formulated to provide better medical facilities to Beedi workers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a): There are four hospitals at Karma (Jharkhand), Mysore (Karnataka), Gurusahaiganj (Uttar Pradesh) and Dhuliyani (West Bengal) and 206 Static-cum-Mobile dispensaries in the country exclusively for treatment of beedi workers and their dependents. Construction of another three hospitals at Biharsharif (Bihar), Mukkudal (Tamilnadu) and Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) for beedi workers is in the final stage.

(b) & (c): As per information available no such case has been reported.

(d): There is no shortage of medicines. However, there is some shortage of doctors in some of the dispensaries & hospitals. In such cases doctors are being engaged on contract basis.

(e) & (f): A scheme to provide Grant-in-aid to State Govts./Reputed NGOs/ESIC/Group Housing Societies/Central or State Govt. recognized private hospitals/dispensaries intending to construct or expand its existing infrastructure to provide better medical facilities to beedi workers and their dependents up to Rs.2.00 crore or 75% of actual cost of construction including cost of medical equipments, whichever is less, has been formulated. The scheme also provides grant upto Rs.4.00 lakh or 75% of actual cost of Ambulance/Mobile Van, whichever is less and Rs.10.00 lakh per annum or 75% of actual cost of medicines, whichever is less for maintenance of a minimum of 15 bedded hospital. Besides, awareness generation and health camps are organized in areas which are not covered by the existing hospitals & dispensaries. The hospitals and dispensaries provide basic health care. There are also schemes for reimbursement of cost of treatment to beedi workers for major illnesses like cancer, heart diseases & kidney transplantation. Further there is a provision of reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals, financial assistance for domiciliary treatment for T.B. Patients.