

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:370

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005

AMENDMENT TO BEEDI AND CIGAR WORKERS (CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT) ACT , 1966

Chatterjee Shri Santasri

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Union Government to ameliorate the conditions of employment of beedi and cigar workers in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to amend the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the changes likely to be effected therein; and
- (d) the time by which it is proposed to be amended?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 370 FOR ANSWER ON 19.12.2005.

(a) Since most of the beedi workers are working from their homes, several initiatives have been taken by the Government to improve their working conditions, health and social security. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, State Government notifies the minimum wages for rolling one thousand beedis. Under the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, State Governments notify the quantity of the material required for rolling one thousand beedis. The Act also regulates working hours, wages for overtime work, interval for rest, weekly holidays, prohibition of employment of children, annual leave with wages, etc. applicable to beedi workers working in the factories. Under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, several welfare schemes are being implemented to improve their living conditions. An amount of Rs.40,000/- is not provided to a beedi worker as financial assistance for construction of his house. Similarly, liberal financial assistance is provided for the treatment of heart ailments, kidney transplantation, etc. and, also, reimbursement upto Rs.30,000/- is available for minor surgeries. All beedi workers in possession of Identity Cards (except those covered under Provident Fund) are insured under the Fund for Rs.10,000/- in case of natural death and Rs.25,000/- in case of death due to accident. Scholarships to schools/college going children of beedi workers are also provided under the Fund.

(b) There is no proposal under the consideration of Government to amend the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 at present.

(c) to (d) Do not arise.