

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4494
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006
FEMALE BEEDI WORKERS
Verma Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh

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

- (a) whether the National Commission for Women has studied the condition of the female beedi workers;
- (b) if so, the recommendations made by the Commission;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide social security viz. pension, insurance and health care facilities to these workers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) to (d): A statement is annexed.

Annexure

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4494 for 22.5.2006.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Major recommendations made by the National Commission for Women are as follows:-

The Government should initiate suitable action to protect the benefits and provide healthy service conditions for the women beedi workers.

#The system of middlemen should be abolished as it leads to exploitation of the workers.

All the companies must be registered and identity cards must be issued to all the workers working both in organized and unorganized sectors.

The triple benefit scheme of provident fund, pension and gratuity must be implemented.#- The Health Department should initiate measures to start special dispensaries to treat problems arising out of hazards in the industry.

Regular health check-ups should be conducted by the government doctors.

The Labour Department should take special measures to protect the interests of women beedi workers.

#The Women`s Welfare Department should provide the women with iron tablets as the doctors identified severe anemic conditions, in addition to other health problems, in these workers.

#There should be awareness camps to improve their working conditions.

#Creches and children centers should be established to look after female worker`s children so that the children are not exposed to the hazards.

Minimum wages should be paid to all workers working both in registered as well as non-registered establishments.

(c) & (d): Under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, various welfare schemes have been formulated in the sphere of Health & Medical-care, Social Security, Education, Housing and Recreation to extend the benefits to the beedi workers including female beedi workers. Group insurance scheme is being run for these workers wherein, benefit of Rs. 10,000/- for natural death and Rs. 25,000/- for accidental death is payable. The beedi worker is not required to pay any premium towards this scheme. Health care is provided to these workers and their dependants through 4 hospitals and 206 dispensaries all over the country. Three more hospitals at Mukkudal in Tamil Nadu, Sagar in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar Shariff in Bihar are nearing completion. In addition, reimbursement of medical expenditure incurred in recognized hospitals on treatment of serious diseases like Heart ailments, Kidney transplantation and Cancer

etc., is admissible to them. The maximum limit of reimbursement is Rs. 1 .30 lakh for heart ailment; Rs. 2.00 lakh for kidney transplantation and for cancer the full cost of treatment is reimbursed. Female beedi workers are entitled to maternity benefit amounting to Rs. 1000/- upto two deliveries. Amount of Rs. 5000/- is granted to widow beedi worker and also widow of beedi worker for conducting marriage of first two daughters.