

>

Title: Need to enhance the wages of beedi workers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh and provide them with better social security.

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (KARIMNAGAR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House regarding the plight of the beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in my Karim Nagar Parliamentary Constituency.

The beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh are experiencing very difficult situation. They are mainly aggrieved due to meagre wages and lack of PF and medical facilities to them. The beedi workers are agitating in Karim Nagar, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Medak and Warangal Districts in Andhra Pradesh and the work has come to halt in many factories. More than 6 lakh poor women, majority of whom are SCs/STs/BCs and other minority people, have lost their daily bread due to such strikes of beedi workers and their children and parents are suffering many hardships and their lives have become miserable as they are not able to meet their day-to-day needs. Their genuine demand is to fix the wage likewise wages being given under MGNREGA. We can easily imagine that with their meagre wages the poor beedi workers cannot afford rice, wheat, milk, bread and other vegetables. They are also requesting to provide Provident Fund facility for their entire families to meet the hospital needs as they cannot afford private hospitals expenditure with their meagre incomes. It seems, the genuine demands of beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh have not been heeded. I myself visited the beedi factories many times in my Karim Nagar Parliamentary constituency and witnessed their plight.

I, therefore, request the concerned Hon'ble Union Minister, through the Chair, to kindly intervene in the matter and take immediate steps to announce wage increase for beedi workers in factories in Andhra Pradesh, PF facilities to the families engaged in beedi factories in Andhra Pradesh and also in the entire country.