

>

Title : Need to ensure payment of minimum wages and other service benefits to the beedi workers engaged with the unregistered Beedi manufacturing units in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (NIZAMABAD): The Beedi manufacturing firms and factories have grown in large numbers in the country over the past few years, predominantly in the areas extending from West Bengal to Andhra Pradesh. As per a report, Nizamabad, Karimnagar and other Telangana District have more than ten lakh such labourers.

Most of these firms are not registered with the Government and do not follow the statutory guidelines of the Government of India. Not only issues pertaining to health hazards of the working labourers in these firms have come to light but also it has been reported that these Beedi firms do not pay the minimum wages to the labourers as stipulated in the Minimum Wages Act. These firms do not extend the EPF and ESI facilities to labourers. Tax evasion by these unregistered firms is another issue which should be dealt with severely.

I urge upon the Central Government to take suitable steps to put a check on these unregistered Beedi firms and make arrangements for inspection and monitoring of these firms so that labourers working in these firms get their dues, wages and facilities as per law.