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Title: Need to exempt Bidi industry from the ambit of proposed notification of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA (NIZAMABAD): Madam, the Health Ministry has issued a Notification to increase the size of the 'health warning' to be printed on the Beedi pack. This will have a serious effect on lakhs of Beedi workers working in our country. Cigarette and Beedi cannot be put together in the same category. The Health Ministry has put both of them in the same category. Cigarette industry is highly mechanized and very expensive. It is not labour intensive. Madam, lakhs of Beedi workers are there even in my Telangana. उनकी वजह से उनका घर चलता है। उनको एक-दो हजार रुपये घर पर मिलता है। उनको इम्पैशन देने के लिए मैं मांग करती हूँ।

HON. SPEAKER: Both are injurious.

SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA: Of course, there is a serious issue of non-smoking and all that अगर आप सिगरेट वॉर्न बीडि देखेंगे, Beedi is a native industry. It needs a great support. Therefore, through you, Madam, I request the hon. Minister to exempt Beedi industry from the ambit of the proposed Notification. And, particularly in Telangana there are lakhs of Beedi workers. I would like the Health Minister to consider this issue seriously and exempt the Beedi industry from this Notification. Thank you so much. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Shri Devji M. Patel, Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Shri Janardan Singh Sigrwal, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Hariom Singh Rathore, Shri M.B. Rajesh and Shri P. Karunakaran are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shrimati Kavitha Kalvakuntla.