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Title: Need to take steps to save the families of beedi workers in the country.

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a serious matter here. A serious situation has arisen for one crore beedi workers due to on-going strike of beedi company owners throughout the country for the last ten days. As you know, in India there are one crore beedi workers and there are more than fifty lakh workers engaged in other allied sector, such as tobacco, tendupatta and transport workers. Now, they are jobless and are facing starvation. The Tobacco Act was passed in 2003. But recently a notification has been issued which will be implemented from 1st April, 2016. According to this notification, 85 per cent of the beedi cover packet should be printed by statutory warning. Due to this, slowly the demand for beedi will decrease and finally beedi industry will be ruined. We are not against such Act or notification. But before issuing such notification, the Government should make some plan to rehabilitate the beedi workers with other jobs because a huge number of poor beedi workers will be rendered jobless due to this notification.

So, I would request the Government to come forward and discuss the issue with all stakeholders to resolve the problem as early as possible in order to save the families of poor beedi workers.