

Secondly, I would like to know that in the original question it was asked that what is the number of bidi workers in every State on 31.3.1987. The hon Minister had given the figures upto 1986 and not upto 31 March 1987. I would like to know the reasons for not giving figures of Bidi workers upto 31 March 1987 and also about their provident fund.

Thirdly, Shri Dal Chander who himself is a renowned trader and employer in the field of bidis, has said that Uttar Pradesh and West - Bengal top the list of those States where the number of Child Labour is high. According to the figures submitted by the Government, about 4.5 lakh workers are engaged in the manufacturing of bidis but in Andhra Pradesh where total number of bidi workers is 2.5 lakh, about 180014 workers are getting the benefit of provident fund or are in the category of getting benefit. In Bihar, the number of workers is 3,50,000 and out of them only 2651 workers are covered. In Karnataka, the number of workers is 3 lakh and out of them 2,83,540 workers are getting benefit of provident fund scheme. But in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh where the number of bidi workers is 4.5 lakh, not a single worker is covered under provident fund scheme. Will the hon Minister issue directions for conducting analysis and survey of this situation.

As my colleagues Dr Rajhans and Shri Rawat has stated that in the trade of bidi, actually middleman exploits the situation who rejects good quality bidi by terming as of bad quality but charges bidi industrialist the price fixed for good quality. In this way the middleman resorts to underhand dealings. May I know whether the hon. Minister will take step to this aspect examined so that the poor workers get the benefit of their labour?

18.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd.

[English]

#### Notification under Customs Act 1962

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (1) Notification No. 292/87-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 12th August, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to grant partial exemption to iron on non-alloy steel hot rolled coils of carbon content less than 0.6 per cent and equate the rate of basic customs duty on HR coils and coils for re-rolling at the rate of 15 per cent *ad valorem* plus Rs. 1100/- per metric tonne.
- (2) Notification No. 293/87-Customs published in Gazette of India dated the 12th August, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to delete the entry for coils for re-rolling from Notification No. 86/86-Customs dated the 17th February, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4600/87]

18.02 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

[English]

**Beedi Workers**

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur):