

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 486
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2018**

WELFARE OF TOBACCO WORKERS

***486. KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people engaged exclusively in farming, retailing, manufacturing and distribution of tobacco/ tobacco products in the country, State/UT-wise;**
- (b) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take steps to reduce production/consumption of tobacco/ tobacco products and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government provides or proposes to provide alternative livelihood opportunities to the people who are completely dependent on tobacco/tobacco products;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) whether the Government has not implemented any welfare scheme for tobacco workers who are engaged in unorganized sector, if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures being taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 486 FOR 02.04.2018 RAISED BY SHRI KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH & SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA REGARDING WELFARE OF TOBACCO WORKERS.

(a): As per the data available according to industry estimates, Indian tobacco industry provides livelihood to over 45.7 million people including farmers, farm labour, merchant traders, processors, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers across the supply chain.

(b): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has brought in a comprehensive legislation, namely the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA 2003) to discourage the consumption of tobacco products in order to protect the masses from the health hazards attributable to tobacco use for reduction of Tobacco consumption. Also, Tobacco Board regulates the production and curing of Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco as per the mandate given under Tobacco Board Act, 1975. As a policy, Tobacco Board is not granting registration to new growers and not issuing any licenses for construction of new barns creating additional curing infrastructure and not expanding FCV tobacco cultivation to new areas and thereby restricting horizontal expansion of tobacco.

(c) & (d): Tobacco Board in collaboration with the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) is providing economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing farmers who will be impacted by the reducing demand for tobacco. Educational and awareness programmes on cultivation of alternate crops to FCV tobacco are also being conducted. A booklet on crop management practices of different alternative crops for dissemination of knowledge on alternative crops has been published. Awareness programmes are also being conducted on cultivation of alternative crops, while appealing to growers to divert at least 25-30% of their holdings for alternative crops.

In addition to this, the Ministry of Labour & Employment has initiated a Skill Development Programme for Beedi Workers and their dependants to shift them in alternative jobs.

(e) & (f): This Ministry is implementing various Welfare Schemes for beedi workers and their dependants in the field of Health, Housing and Education. Details of the Schemes are at Annexure-A.

ANNEXURE-A

Annexure in reply to part (e) & (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 486 for 02.04.2018

1. HEALTH SCHEMES:

Besides providing health care facilities to beedi workers through 12 Hospitals and 286 Dispensaries located across the country, the following assistance is given to workers for treatment of certain categories of diseases, as under :-

S.No.	PURPOSE	NATURE OF ASSISTANCE
1	Tuberculosis	Reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals and domiciliary treatment for workers. Subsistence allowance of Rs. 750/- to Rs. 1000/- p.m is granted as per the advice of the treating physician.
2	Heart Diseases	Reimbursement of expenditure up to Rs. 1,30,000/- to workers.
3	Kidney Transplantation	Reimbursement of expenditure up to Rs. 2,00,000/- to workers.
4	Cancer	Reimbursement of actual expenses on treatment, medicines and diet charges incurred by workers, or their dependents.
5	Minor surgery like Hernia, Appendectomy, Ulcer Gynecological diseases and Prostrate diseases.	Reimbursement of expenditure up to Rs. 30,000/- to workers and their dependents.

2. HOUSING SCHEME:

Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS), 2016 for beedi workers is being implemented in the country through Welfare Commissioners of the Labour Welfare Organisation under this Ministry. The housing subsidy of Rs. 1,50,000/- is disbursed in three installments in the ratio of 25:60:15.

3. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION OF THE WARDS OF BEEDI WORKERS

SCHEME	Nature of assistance			
Scheme for award of scholarships to the wards of beedi workers	Scholarship is awarded to the children of the workers at the following rates per student per year:-			
	Group	Class	Rates	
			Girls	Boys
	Group I	Class I to IV	250	250
	Group II	Class V to VIII	940	500
	Group III	Class IX	1140	700
	Group IV	Class X	1840	1400
	Group V	Class XI to XII	2440	2000
		ITI	10000	10000
	Group VI	Non-Professional Degree Courses; Non-Professional Post Graduate Courses; Two-Three Year Diploma Courses and BCA, BBA and PGDCA.	3000	3000
GROUP VII	Professional Degree Courses i.e.B.E./B.Tech/ MBBS/ BAMS/BUMS/ B.Sc (Agriculture) and MCA/ MBA.	15000	15000	
