

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 462  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023**

**BEEDI WORKERS**

**462. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:  
SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:  
SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether a group of researchers has urged the Government to declare beedi rolling a hazardous process and recommended alternative sources of livelihood for them, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and**
- (b) whether the studies suggest around 87 percent of workers reported symptoms such as pain in the back, shoulder, neck, knee, joints, spondylitis, tiredness and body-ache and most of the workers had musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, skin, cardiovascular, oral and eye diseases and the women workers had more miscarriages and abortions, lower fertility rate, and higher uterine problems and also newborns of mothers involved in the work were at 1.9 times higher risk for low birth weight and 1.7 times at higher risk for smaller for gestational age, if so, the details thereof and corrective steps being taken to protect such beedi rolling workers?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

**(a) & (b): Few studies have been conducted by researchers on the health problems faced by Beedi Workers. The Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E) in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has been providing Skill Development training to the Beedi Workers and their dependents to engage them in alternative jobs. The MoL&E is also providing the Health care facility to Beedi workers and their family members with a network of 276 Dispensaries and 10 Hospitals located across the Country and also reimbursement of expenditure for specialized treatment under the Government recognized Hospitals in case of critical diseases i.e. Cancer, Tuberculosis, Heart Diseases, Kidney Transplantation, Hernia, Appendectomy, Ulcer Gynecological diseases and Prostrate diseases to the beneficiaries.**

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