

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2625
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025**

WELFARE OF BEEDI WORKERS

2625. DR. PRABHA MALLIKARJUN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the plight of Beedi workers due to low wages, hazardous work environment, systemic exploitation, lack of social security and limited access to various welfare scheme;**
- (b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure better working conditions of beedi workers, eliminate child workers, regularisation and direct employment of women;**
- (c) whether the Government has data on number of workers employed directly and indirectly in Beedi industries across the country, State-wise including Karnataka particularly in Davangere district; and**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to bring beedi workers under social security benefits viz, PF, ESI, Health insurance, pension, educational aid and if so, the details thereof along with action taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SUSHRI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE)**

(a) to (d): The Labour Welfare Scheme under Ministry of Labour and Employment is implemented across the country through Labour Welfare Organizations, situated in 18 Regions across the country, including for welfare of the Beedi Workers and their family members.

This Scheme has three components, namely, Health, Scholarship & Housing and the details are as under:-

(i) Health care facilities through 10 Hospitals and 279 dispensaries. Reimbursement of expenditure for specialized treatments i.e. Cancer, Tuberculosis, Heart Diseases, Kidney Transplantation.

(ii) Financial Assistance for education of the children of beedi workers from class-I to college/University ranging from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 25,000/- per student per annum, depending upon class/course.

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(iii) Subsidy of Rs.1,50,000/- (per beneficiary) for construction of pucca houses, under Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS) 2016. RIHS has been converged with Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

The Government also runs other various welfare schemes for the welfare of Unorganized workers including for the Beedi workers, such as (i) Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY), (ii) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), (iii) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), (iv) Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan- Dhan (PMSYM), (v) Public Distribution System through One-Nation-OneRation-Card Scheme under National Food Security Act, (vi) Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana, (vii) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, (viii) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, (ix) Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, (x) Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi PMSVANidhi, (xi) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana among others.

As per the data available, there are 49.82 lakh registered Beedi workers including Davangere District, Karnataka in the country.

Labour being a subject under the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India, where both the Central & State Governments are competent to enact legislation and enforce Labour Laws as per their respective jurisdictions.

The Central Government has enacted the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The Act provides for the complete prohibition of work or employment of children below 14 years of age in any occupation or process.

The Act also provides for prohibition of adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years from works in hazardous occupations and processes.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the e-Shram Portal – “One-Stop-Solution” on 21st October, 2024 to entails integration of different social security/welfare schemes to enables unorganized workers registered on e-Shram to access social security schemes and see the benefits availed by them so far through e-Shram portal.

So, far, 13 welfare schemes of different Central Ministries/Departments have already been integrated/mapped with the e-shram Portal including (PMSAVNidhi), (PMSBY), (PMJJBY), (PMAY-G), (AB-PMJAY), (PMAY-U), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Gurantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Pradhan Mantri Kissan Maan Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY).