

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2671
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2019**

ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD FOR BEEDI WORKERS

**2671. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:
SHRI SANJAY SINGH:**

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

- (a) what is the number of beedi workers engaged in beedi rolling industry in the country;**
- (b) what steps have been taken till now to provide alternate source of livelihood to people involved in beedi industry;**
- (c) how many workers shifted to alternative livelihood;**
- (d) whether the Ministry has undertaken any assessment to show whether their total earnings of beedi workers have increased after shifting to alternative livelihood; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a): There are 49,82,294 registered Beedi Workers in the country.

(b) & (c): To provide alternate source of employment for viable alternative sources of livelihood to Beedi workers and their dependent family members, Skill Development Programme was launched in association with International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), M/o Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE) and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW). Due to which many beneficiaries have been shifted to alternative jobs.

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Salient features of the above Programme is given at Annexure –I.

During this Calendar Year, approximately 2223 Beneficiaries have been trained under this programme, out of which approximately 1025 beneficiaries have been shifted to alternative jobs.

(d) & (e): Sir, it would be difficult to make correct assessment of earnings of beedi workers and their dependents after their shifting to alternative livelihood as most of the workers became independent and are not in touch with the respective Medical dispensary/Welfare Commissioners' Office. Most of them moved to distant places and some of them started their own business. No distinctive official surveys have been conducted to know the impact of increase in earnings of beedi workers and their dependents after shifting to alternative livelihood. However, surveys through Questionnaires were done and success stories have been collected from the field/regions which show certain increase in their income.

Annexure referred in reply to part (b) & (c) of Rajya Sabha Un-Starred Question No. 2671 for 11.12.2019.

Salient Features of the Skill Development Programme

- Training to beedi rollers and their dependents to be provided in **Vocational Training Providers (VTP)** approved under the Skill Development Programme.
- Payment of Stipend to the registered Beedi worker to compensate him for loss of wages suffered while the worker attended the training.
- Payment of travel expenses of the trainee to cover the cost of travel from his place of residence to the VTP and back.
- Support for Lodging & boarding expenses in case the worker or his dependent is required to stay away from his residence for attending the training.
- All payments to be made direct to the trainees through online transactions i.e. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- Certification under the Skill Development Programme having national validity.
- Assistance is provided to Beedi Workers and their dependents to move them to alternative source of employment to ensure that they sustain after the training.

Various Courses in which Skill Development Training has been imparted

1. Account Using Tally
2. CNC Operator
3. Hotel Management (Front Office Associate)
4. Sewing Machine Operator
5. Food & Beverages Service
6. A/C & Fridge Mechanic
7. Customer Care Executive
8. Solar PV Installation
9. Tailoring
10. Solar Panel Installation
11. Asstt. Electrician
12. Asstt. Beauty Therapist
13. Basic Computer Course
14. General Duty Asstt.
15. Field Technician
16. Automobile Repairing
17. Plumbing
18. Beautician
19. Mushroom Cultivation
20. Banking & Accountancy
21. Medical & Nursing Course
22. Hand Embroidery
23. Jam & Jelly Making
24. Computer Hardware
25. Pickle Making
26. Stitching & Fashion Designing
27. Soft Toys Making
28. Agarbatti Making
29. Bag Making
30. LED Technician
31. CCTV Technician
