

rules framed under the Act have created serious problem for over 50 lakh beedi workers employed in Beedi Industry all over the country threatening their employment and livelihood. If the Act is implemented, it will create serious problems for the industry and beedi workers since some of the provisions are extremely difficult to implement. These provisions ultimately favour Mini Cigarette industry and denies level playing field for the Beedi Industry. In particular, Section 7 of the Act is not possible for Beedi Industry to implement and it would be most appropriate if the Beedi Industry were exempted from the purview of this section of the Act. While the objective of discouraging consumption of tobacco in any form is laudable, the manner in which the Act seeks to achieve this objective will make the objective fall flat since it would result in promoting Mini Cigarettes, besides threatening the livelihood of 50 lakh Beedi workers, mostly hailing from the most downtrodden and poorest sections of the society. The Government has not provided any rehabilitation project for these Beedi workers who are expected to lose livelihood following enforcement of the Act. Thank you. (Ends)

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Moinul Hassan.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Moinul Hassan.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Moinul Hassan.

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Moinul Hassan.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, we all want to associate ourselves with the Special Mention made by Shri Moinul Hassan.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

Need for organising Regional SARAS Fair at Pune, Aurangabad and Nagpur

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (Maharashtra): Sir, the Government of Maharashtra had sought permission of the Union Government for organising Regional SARAS Fair at Pune, Aurangabad and Nagpur on 31st January, 2007. It was pointed out that there was a tremendous response from the

public at the Mahalaxmi Regional SARAS Fair organised in Mumbai between 23rd Decemeber, 2005 and 3rd January, 2006, and the total sale to the products manufactured by SGSY, SHGs/SWAROJGARIS was to the tune of Rs. 2.2 crores. Smililarly, to widen the scope of the market for these products, the Maharashtra Government had requested to grant permission for holding a regional SARAS at Pune during summer, at Aurangabad and Nagpur during winter, as all the three metro cities, with a sizeable purchasing power, will be useful and beneficial to all. The State Government of Maharashtra reminded the Government of India on 5th January, 2006, for granting permission immediately so that the Maharashtra Government is able to hold this Regional SARAS during the coming winter.

Sir, as the matter is pending for a long-time, I urge upon the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, to kindly take necessary steps for granting permission which will be of great benefit to the people as well as to the Government of Maharashtra. Thank you.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, A associate myself with the Special Mention made by Smt. Supriya Sule. It is a very important Speical Mention.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is also her maiden Special Mention.

SHRI BRINDA KARAT: Yes, Sir. It is her maiden Special Mention. So, we also congratulate her.

SHRI ROBERT KHARSHING (Meghalaya): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Smt. Sule.

Inefficient distribution of relief

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of this House to the alarming inefficiency in relief distribution. There is a general impression about the inefficiency, misallocation and corruption in the distribution of relief by local agencies. The normal financial procedures are often not followed due to exigency. Yet, the local authorities have to be accountable to ensure due diligence in distribution relief efficiently to the affected population. The recent incidents of distribution of less than Rs. 100 as relief in parts of UP and recurence of similar cases in other parts of the country, only shows the indiferece of governance which is incapable