

AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Bill No. 113 of 2019

**THE TEA GARDEN WORKERS (TIMELY PAYMENT OF DUES)
BILL, 2019**

By

PROF. SAUGATA ROY, M.P.

A

BILL

*to ensure timely payment of dues to workers of tea gardens whose management
has been directed by the Central Government to be taken over by the
Tea Board vide Central Government Notification S.O. 260 (E)
dated 28th January, 2016.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Tea Garden Workers (Timely Payment of Dues) Act, Short title. 2019.

Timely payment of dues to tea garden workers in respect of Tea Companies in the State of West Bengal whose management has been directed by the Central Government to be taken over by the Tea Board.

2. (I) The Central Government shall, within one month of the coming into force of this Act, take such steps, including confiscation and auction of personal properties of the office bearers of the Tea Companies in the State of West Bengal, as are necessary for payment of wages and other dues to tea garden workers of such companies.

(2) In this section the expression "Tea Companies" means the following Tea Gardens, whose management has been directed by the Central Government to be taken over by the Tea Board *vide* Central Government Notification S.O. 260 (E) dated 28th January, 2016:—

- (i) Birpara Tea Estate;
- (ii) Garganda Tea Estate;
- (iii) Lankapara Tea Estate;
- (iv) Tulsipara Tea Estate;
- (v) Huntapara Tea Estate;
- (vi) Dhumchipara Tea Estate; and
- (vii) Demdima Tea Estate.

5

10

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Central Government recently notified in the Gazette and authorised the Tea Board to take immediate steps to take over the management of seven tea estates in the State of West Bengal. These gardens belonged to the M/S Duncan Industries Limited, where rupees seventy crores are due to the tea garden workers. But till now, the dues of workers have not been released. A stringent law is necessary to ensure that workers dues are timely paid and workers do not die of starvation.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
June 12, 2019.

SAUGATA ROY

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 2 of the Bill provides that the Central Government shall, within one month of the coming into force of this Act, take such steps as are necessary for payment of wages and other dues to tea garden workers. Such steps may include financial assistance from the Central Government. However, at this stage, it is not possible to give the estimates of expenditure which would be incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India.

LOK SABHA

A

BILL

to ensure timely payment of dues to workers of tea gardens whose management
has been directed by the Central Government to be taken over by the
Tea Board *vide* Central Government Notification S.O. 260 (E)
dated 28th January, 2016.

(*Prof. Saugata Roy, M.P.*)