

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3411
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31st MARCH, 2023

DEVELOPMENT OF TEA INDUSTRY INFRASTRUCTURE

3411. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose infrastructure development support for tea tourism, besides measures for improving educational and other facilities for tea tribe workers and their families;
- (b) the fund allocation for Tea Industry in Assam and North Eastern Region; and
- (c) the details of special incentives for Assam's Tea Industries Scheme (ATIS) for 2023?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): The conditions of work of tea garden workers in plantations is regulated by the Plantation Labour Act (PLA), 1951. The Act also requires the employers to provide the workers with housing, medical facilities, sickness and maternity benefits and other forms of social security measures. There are provisions for educational facilities for the children, drinking water, conservancy, canteens, crèches and recreational facilities for the benefit of the tea plantation workers and their families in and around the work places in the tea estates. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 is enforced by the State Governments. Besides, the Tea Development and Promotion Scheme being implemented by the Tea Board provides for educational stipend and award to meritorious students who are wards of small tea growers. No proposal on infrastructure development support for tea tourism is currently under consideration in the department. The Union budget of 2021-22 announced devising a special scheme for welfare of tea workers especially women and their children in Assam and West Bengal.

Further, the Tea Tribes Welfare Department, Government of Assam has implemented several scholarship schemes for the students of Tea Tribes Community in Assam for their educational development. Additionally, the Government of Assam has also implemented other beneficiary schemes to provide financial aid to self-employed youths and women SHGs of the community for their economic upliftment. In 2022-23 financial year Tourism Department, Government of Assam has included a budgetary provision for "Promotion and Development of Tea Tourism Infrastructure in Assam" with an estimated cost for Rs.50.00 Crores with a view to support tea tourism.

(b): Total financial assistance of Rs.135.54 Cr., including Rs.127.26 crore for Assam has been provided to North Eastern Region (NER) through the Tea Board during the period from 2019-20 till February 2023.

(c): The Assam Tea Industries Special Incentive Scheme (ATISIS) is a scheme of State Government of Assam, which was notified in the year 2020. The components under ATISIS are as follows:

1. Interest Subvention on Working Capital
2. Orthodox or Speciality Tea Production Subsidy
3. Subsidy for Orthodox & Speciality Tea Units for Plant & Machinery
4. Agriculture Income Tax Holiday

The Government of Assam has announced for further strengthening of scheme in the budget for 2023-24.
