

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1009
ANSWERED ON 28/07/2023

SHORTAGE OF POWER AND LABOURERS IN TEA GARDENS

1009. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to resolve the power and labour problems in tea gardens;
- (b) whether any special package has been announced in this regard;
- (c) whether these issues are impacting the production of tea; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to secure and boost the production of tea?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The labourers working in the tea plantations are covered under the Plantations Labour Act, 1951(PLA), Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act, 1946 which are implemented by the respective State Governments. Tea garden labourers are also covered under Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 implemented by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund, Pension Fund and Deposit Linked Insurance Fund Scheme Act 1955 (only for Assam). Representations or reports received regarding labour issues are taken up with the respective state governments for resolution. No report has been received by the Tea Board regarding power problem in tea estates. No special package has been announced in this regard.

No specific study has been undertaken to ascertain the impact of power and labour issues on production of Tea. However, tea production in the country has increased from 1283.03 million kgs. in 2020-21 to 1374.97 million kgs. in 2022-23. The Tea Development and Promotion Scheme of the Tea Board is aimed at overall development of the tea industry, including enhancement of production & productivity of tea.
