

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2289
ANSWERED ON 08/08/2025

SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEMES FOR TEA GARDEN WORKERS

2289 SHRI PRAKASH CHIK BARAIK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether tea garden workers are covered under Central Government welfare schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) or Jal Jeevan Mission;
- (b) if so, the number of beneficiaries in tea garden areas, particularly in North Bengal; and
- (c) whether Government is considering a special welfare package exclusively for tea garden workers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b): In order to achieve the objective of 'Housing for All' in rural areas, the Government of India, through Ministry of Rural Development, has been implementing Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G) with effect from 1st April 2016, including in the state of West Bengal. Government of India, through Ministry of Jal Shakti, is also implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), in partnership with States, to make provision of tap water supply to every rural household of the country, including the State of West Bengal. Drinking Water is a state subject, and hence, the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation, and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, including those under the Jal Jeevan Mission, lies with State / Union Territory Governments. The Government of India supports the States by providing technical and financial assistance.

(c): The working condition of tea garden workers in the country are governed by the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, which is implemented by the respective State Governments.

Tea Board, through its 'Tea Development & Promotion Scheme (TDPS)', undertakes several activities supplementary to the provisions under the Plantations Labour Act 1951 for the welfare of tea workers throughout the country, including the state of West Bengal as below:

- i. Health awareness camps for workers
- ii. Educational support and award for meritorious students (for Class X and XII) to the wards of big tea garden workers and small tea growers (upto 1.00 ha)
- iii. Book and uniform grants to wards of workers of closed tea estates and big tea estates affected by natural calamities
- iv. Assistance for disabled and critically ill dependents of workers (kidney, heart, liver diseases and cancer) in closed tea gardens

In addition, the ‘Pradhan Mantri Cha Shramik Protsahan Yojana (PMCSFY)’, that aims at uplifting the quality of life of tea garden workers, especially women and their children in the states of Assam and West Bengal, was approved by the Government with a total outlay of Rs. 999 Crores for the period 2024-25 to 2025-26. The components under the PMCSFY scheme include the Cha Shramik Shiksha Yojana (CSSY), Cha Shramik Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (CSSSY) and Cha Shramik Aashray Yojana (CSAY) which pertain to education, health facilities and resting shelters respectively.
