

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4003 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th MARCH, 2020

LAND ALLOTMENT TO TEA GARDENERS

4003(H). SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the criteria on which land has been allotted to various tea gardeners in Assam along with the data on which such allotments were made;
- (b) whether land was given on lease to the British Government;
- (c) if so, the duration for which this land was given on lease and the law under which this agreement was made along with the details thereof;
- (d) whether some parts of the land in the various tea gardens of Assam has been demarcated for the free roaming of wild elephants and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the criterion on which the workers were brought to the tea gardens of Assam in the British regime; and
- (f) the details of the facilities that were assured to be given to them along with the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)
THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): With a view to encourage the growth and expansion of tea industry in Assam, land was offered for cultivation of tea on specially favorable terms under various sets of rules from time to time, namely the Waste Land Grant Rules of 1838; the Old Assam Rules of 1854; the Fee Simple Rules of 1862; the Revised Fee Simple Rules of 1874 and the New Lease Rules of 1876.

(b) & (c): No, Sir. Land was not given on lease to the British Government.

(d): There is no official demarcation of tea garden areas for free roaming of wild elephants. However, wild life migrate or stay for a short duration in some tea garden areas adjoining the Protected Areas and Forests of Assam.

(e) & (f): Gradual expansion of tea plantation in Assam during the British period led to acute shortage of labourers in the new plantations. Accordingly, the British Government facilitated the migration of labourers from what is present day West Bengal, Bihar, UP, Madhya Pradesh, Odhisa etc. The Plantation Labour Act enacted in 1951 and rules made thereunder through Assam Plantation Labour Rules, 1956 assure medical facilities, drinking water, canteens, crèches, education facilities, housing, conservancy, recreation facilities, other facilities (umbrella, blankets, raincoats etc.) to the tea garden workers in Assam.
