

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1244
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2021**

TEA-GADEN WORKERS

**1244. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:
SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:
SHRI RAJU BISTA:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government maintains data on the number of tea-garden workers in the Northeast region;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof by state, district, and gender and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government has conducted an assessment of the economic impact of COVID-19 on tea-garden workers in Assam;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (e) whether the Government has or intends to provide economic relief to tea-garden workers in light of COVID-19 and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (f) whether the Government has received any proposals from State Governments in the North-East to provide support to tea-garden workers for the same and if so, the details thereof including the government's response; and**
- (g) whether many tea garden owners, particularly in the Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Alipurduars, and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal are not remitting Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) dues of workers regularly and if so, details of the defaulting tea garden units and the action taken against these defaulters so far?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)**

(a) & (b): As per the Baseline Survey conducted by the Tea Board during 2018, the details of tea garden workers State, District and Gender wise in North Eastern Region is at Annexure.

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(c) to (e): Tea Board collects the tea statistics (through online portal) from all the tea processing units and the data were compiled for the release of various Tea Statistics. Further, the presence of the Tea Board official at the grassroots levels acts as liaisoning officer between the tea stakeholders, the State Government and the Central Government. No separate studies have been made in this regard but the data collected were analyzed for preparation of various reports and preparation of action plan. Efforts were made for the normal functioning of the tea gardens, tea processing units, auction centres, logistics etc., in almost all the major tea growing regions following Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines and the Standard Operating Procedure prepared in this regard.

(f): Tea Board has extended some financial assistance to the workers of tea gardens through its Human Resource Development (HRD) component under the “Tea Development & Promotion Scheme” implemented during the Mid Term Framework (MTF) Period (2017-2020) which was extended till 31.03.2021 for the tea plantation workers of the tea growing states in the country. This scheme aims at achieving improvements in the life and living conditions of the Tea Plantation workers and their wards/dependents under three broad categories viz:

Improving the health and hygiene of workers: Capital grants for hospitals (not tea garden hospital) / Medical clinics adjacent to tea garden areas towards extension of treatment facilities and also for purchase of medical equipment, accessories and ambulance and reservation of Beds, financial assistance for disabled persons/cancer / heart patients/kidney transplantation in specialty hospitals.

Education of wards of workers: Educational stipend for wards of tea plantation workers, Special scheme of Nehru Award for the wards of tea plantation workers, Scheme for book and school uniform grant to needy and deserving wards of tea garden workers especially in the closed tea gardens or those affected by severe natural calamities, Financial assistance to Bharat Scouts & Guides in tea growing States.

Imparting training to improve skills for workers and their dependents: Vocational training for wards of tea plantation workers and dependents.

(g): Employers in relation to Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) covered establishments, including tea plantations are required to file Electronic Challan cum Return (ECR) in respect of all their eligible employees and remit the dues within 15 days of close of wage month.

In the event of non-filing of ECR, the employers are alerted through SMS/e-mail to remit the dues and if compliance is not made, action is taken to through e-Inspections. On failure of the establishment to respond to e-Inspection, action is taken to inspect the records of establishments and to assess the amount-in-default by quasi-judicial process under section 7A of EPF & MP Act, 1952 and to recover the assessed dues. Penal damages is imposed under Section 14B of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 for willful default in payment of dues.

The aforesaid action against defaulter is a continuous process as per the various provisions of the Act till compliance is secured.

The details (District-wise) of defaulting tea garden units are as under:

Name of District	No of defaulting Tea Establishments
Darjeeling	59
Alipurduar	14
Jalpaiguri	11

The employees get SMS alert every month as to receipt or non-receipt of monthly contributions. In case of any default by employers, the employee concerned or their Unions have facility to lodge grievance on the EPFO's Online Grievance Portal EPFiGMS, which is also accessible through UMANG Mobile App.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1244 for 06.12.2021 by Shri Anto Antony, Shri Pradyut Bordoloi and Shri Raju Bista regarding Tea-Garden Workers.

State	District	Permanent			Temporary			Total		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Arunahcal Pradesh	CHANGLANG	115	114	229	540	596	1136	655	710	1365
	EAST SIANG	95	122	217	121	302	423	216	424	640
	LONGDING	22	24	46	40	60	100	62	84	146
	LOWER DIPANG VALLEY	136	150	286	32	153	185	168	303	471
	Lower Subansiri	7	28	35	15	5	20	22	33	55
	NAMSAI	0	0	0	154	306	460	154	306	460
	PAPUM PARE	10	11	21	10	19	29	20	30	50
	TIRAP	39	39	78	104	86	190	143	125	268
	UPPER SIANG	0	0	0	20	30	50	20	30	50
	WEST SIANG	30	22	52	105	25	130	135	47	182
Assam	BAKSA	1371	2295	3666	892	1245	2137	2263	3540	5803
	BISWANATH	7269	8743	16012	5408	10822	16230	12677	19565	32242
	BONGAIGAO N	159	151	310	170	480	650	329	631	960
	CACHAR	12476	12678	25154	7389	10333	17722	19865	23011	42876
	CHARAIDEO	12290	12052	24342	11144	17137	28281	23434	29189	52623
	DARRANG	740	864	1604	541	1139	1680	1281	2003	3284
	DHUBRI	639	494	1133	930	1466	2396	1569	1960	3529
	DIBRUGARH	31664	32220	63884	20693	38912	59605	52357	71132	123489
	DIMA HASAO	73	73	146	86	110	196	159	183	342
	GOALPARA	182	191	373	88	306	394	270	497	767
	GOLAGHAT	15691	17632	33323	8728	15206	23934	24419	32838	57257
	HAILAKANDI	3662	3251	6913	2616	3083	5699	6278	6334	12612
	JORHAT	18236	19936	38172	7797	12991	20788	26033	32927	58960
	KAMRUP	175	184	359	379	533	912	554	717	1271
	KARBI ANGLONG	529	683	1212	536	1060	1596	1065	1743	2808
	KARIMGANJ	4534	4265	8799	1802	2181	3983	6336	6446	12782
	KOKRAJHAR	1081	1270	2351	1714	2814	4528	2795	4084	6879
	LAKHIMPUR	4041	4067	8108	3221	4755	7976	7262	8822	16084
	MORIGAON	325	326	651	150	350	500	475	676	1151
	NAGAON	6288	6529	12817	2517	5679	8196	8805	12208	21013
NORTH LAKHIMPUR	180	196	376	186	220	406	366	416	782	
SIVASAGAR	7655	7684	15339	5199	8547	13746	12854	16231	29085	
SIVSAGAR	1965	2335	4300	1400	2435	3835	3365	4770	8135	
SONITPUR	18338	19790	38128	13398	23219	36617	31736	43009	74745	
TINSUKIA	30554	34406	64960	22753	35070	57823	53307	69476	122783	
UDALGURI	8756	10216	18972	7810	14603	22413	16566	24819	41385	
Maghalaya	Ri-bhoi	27	21	48	33	23	56	60	44	104

Mizoram	CHAMPHAI	0	0	0	15	25	40	15	25	40
Nagaland	Mokokchung	0	0	0	30	70	100	30	70	100
Sikkim	SOUTH SIKKIM	176	226	402	46	118	164	222	344	566
Tripura	DHALAI	429	512	941	205	327	532	634	839	1473
	KHOWAI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NORTH TRIPURA	1031	1123	2154	265	248	513	1296	1371	2667
	SIPAHIJALA	145	242	387	69	59	128	214	301	515
	SOUTH TRIPURA	29	71	100	54	138	192	83	209	292
	UNAKOTI	534	760	1294	678	1054	1732	1212	1814	3026
	WEST TRIPURA	853	1336	2189	373	715	1088	1226	2051	3277
