

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3465
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021**

PLANTATION LABOURERS

3465. ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has data regarding the health indicators of plantation labourers in India in the last five years;**
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to improve the health and wellness conditions of the plantation labourers in the country;**
- (d) if so, the State-wise details thereof;**
- (e) whether the Government has undertaken any health related projects for labourers in the last two years; and**
- (f) if so, the State-wise details of action taken in this regard?**

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 regulates the conditions of plantation labour. The Act requires the employers to make provisions for supply of wholesome drinking water, separate conservancy for males and females, latrines and urinals to be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and readily available medical facilities for the workers as prescribed by the State Government. In addition, the Act also has provisions related to safety, and requires every employer to maintain health record of every worker who is exposed to insecticides, chemicals and toxic substances which are used, handled, stored or transported in a plantation. The Act empowers the inspector, if he thinks necessary so to do, cause any

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young person employed in a plantation to be examined by a certifying surgeon. The Plantation Labour Act is implemented through the concerned State Governments for which separate Rules have been framed by them. As such, no data regarding the health indicators of plantation labourers in India is maintained centrally by this Ministry.

(c) & (d): The Plantation Labour Act has been subsumed in the Labour Code on Occupational, Safety, Health and Working Conditions, 2020 and Social Security Code, 2020. The Code on Social Security 2020 envisages giving option to plantation owners to enroll its workers as member of ESIC (Employees State Insurance Corporation). The ESIC provides multiple benefits like sickness benefits, maternity benefit etc. besides medical benefits to its members.

(e) & (f): Tea Board is implementing labour welfare measures related to health under Human Resource Development (HRD) component under the “Tea Development & Promotion Scheme”, such as capital grants for hospitals (not tea garden hospitals)/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 and financial assistance for disabled persons/cancer/heart patients/kidney transplantation in specialty hospitals.

Rubber Board also implements various labour welfare schemes for the workers in unorganized rubber plantations, which include medical reimbursement and financial assistance for delivery of women tappers.
