

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 113**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 09<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022**

**WELFARE OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS**

\*113. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

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

- (a) the details of the use/disbursement of the Rs. 1000 crore funds for the welfare of tea garden workers in West Bengal and Assam, allocated in the 2021-22 annual budget;
- (b) whether there is any delay in disbursement of the allocated funds and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is any delay in the release of the subsidy to the tea gardens of North Bengal;
- (d) if so, the details of the subsidies pending as on date;
- (e) the reasons for delay in the payment and expected date of clearing of all pending subsidies; and
- (f) the details of various schemes for the welfare of tea garden workers and their family members being run by the Tea Board/Ministry?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ( श्री पीयूष गोयल )

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**  
**(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 113 FOR ANSWER ON 09<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022  
REGARDING “WELFARE OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS”.**

**(a) to (f):** Tea Board has implemented welfare activities under Human Resource Development (HRD) component of the “Tea Development and Promotion Scheme” during the Medium Term Framework period from 2017-18 to 2019-20 and extended till 2020-21, aimed at improving the health and hygiene of workers, education of wards of workers and imparting training to improve skills for growers/workers. The “Tea Development & Promotion Scheme” approved for implementation by Tea Board during the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 has a component for the welfare of small Tea growers and their workers.

Tea Board has provided the assistance of Rs.25.78 crore towards the welfare of the tea garden workers and their wards/dependents during the period from 2016-17 till 2021-22 (up to January, 2022) covering 36516 beneficiaries in All India.

The working condition of tea garden workers in the country are governed by the Plantation Labour Act (PLA), 1951. The Act requires the employers to provide the workers with housing, medical facilities, sickness and maternity benefits and other forms of social security measures. There are provisions for educational facilities for the children, drinking water, conservancy, canteens, creches and recreational facilities for the benefit of the tea plantations workers and their families in and around the work places in the tea estates. The welfare provisions of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 have now been subsumed in two labour codes- the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and Social Security Code, 2020. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 is implemented by the State Governments.

There is no delay in disbursement of subsidy. Financial assistance of Rs. 119.03 crore has been provided by the Tea Board under the “Tea Development and Promotion Scheme” to the tea gardens of North Bengal during the last five years and current year [2016-17 till 2021-22 (upto January, 2022)]. Tea Board disburses subsidies to eligible tea stakeholders as per budget provisions and approved scheme guidelines. All cases where subsidy was sanctioned have been disbursed, hence there is no pendency.

A provision of Rs. 200.00 crore was provided in the Budget of Tea Board for 2021-22. Sanction process for Rs. 200.00 Crore under BE has not been completed.

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