

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2871
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3rd AUGUST, 2022

WELFARE OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS

2871. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has allocated 1000 crore rupees in the Union Budget 2021-22 for the welfare of tea garden workers of West Bengal and Assam;
- (b) if so, the details funds spent, works done and beneficiaries so far, State-wise;
- (c) the details of implementing agencies for the above funds in both the States;
- (d) the details of wages of tea garden labour as in different States including West Bengal; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government for the welfare of tea garden workers?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c): A provision of Rs. 200.00 crore was made available in Budget of Tea Board during the year 2021-22 for a scheme to be formulated for the welfare of tea workers in the States of Assam and West Bengal. The Government is in process of finalizing the details of various works to be taken up under this scheme. These works will relate to sectors such as health, education, skill development, infrastructure for provisioning of welfare services to tea workers especially women and their children. The scheme guidelines are likely to be finalized soon.

(d): The details of wages of tea garden workers in different States including West Bengal is given in Annexure.

(e): The working conditions and the welfare measures for workers working in the tea gardens in the country are governed by the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 (PLA). The Act requires the employers to provide the workers, including women, with housing, medical facilities, sickness &

maternity benefits and other forms of social security measures. There are provisions for educational facility for the children, drinking water, conservancy, canteens, crèches and recreational facilities for the benefit of the plantation workers including tea and coffee workers and their families in and around the work places in the tea and coffee plantations.

Besides PLA, number of other industrial and social security legislations such as Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, The Employee's Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund, Pension Fund and Deposit Linked Insurance Fund Scheme Act 1955 – only for Assam), Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Maternity Benefit Act 1961, Payment of Wages Act 1936 etc. provide various benefits like gratuity, bonus, provident fund, equal remuneration etc. to tea and coffee plantation workers. The provisions of these Acts have now been subsumed in four labour codes-the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, Social Security Code, 2020, Code on Industrial Relations, 2020 and Code on Wages 2020.

Tea Board has also implemented certain welfare activities under Human Resource Development (HRD) component of the "Tea Development and Promotion Scheme" during the Medium Term Framework(MTF) 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. Financial assistance of Rs. 18.11 Cr. was extended under HRD component during MTF period.

The "Tea Development & Promotion Scheme" approved for implementation by Tea Board during the 15th Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 also has a component for the welfare of small Tea growers and their workers.

ANNEXURE

Details of wages of tea garden workers

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Plantation District	Effective Date/Period	Daily wages (in Rs.)
1	Assam	a) Brahmaputra valley	22.02.2021	205.00
		b) Barak valley		183.00
2	West Bengal	A) Dooars	01.01.2022	232.00
		b) Terai		
		c) Darjeeling		
3	Tripura		01.04.2018	176.00
4	Tamilnadu (Nilgiris and Nilgiris-Wayanad, Anamallais)		July 2022 to Sept 2022	406.80
5	Kerala			421.26
6	Karnataka			376.78
7	Himachal Pradesh		25.05.2022	350.00
8	Uttarakhand		July, 2020	330.00
9	Sikkim		15.09.2017	300.00
10	Bihar		Jan, 2020	175.00
