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Title: Regarding addressing the problems of plantation labourers of Tamil Nadu - Laid

**SHRI A. RAJA (NILGIRIS):** The plantation labourers of Valpaarai of Tamil Nadu who work in the nearby estates and in dense forest areas have to travel a lot to have access to ATM facility to withdraw their salary. Moreover at times such ATMs are out of cash adding to their woes. The Union Government should ensure that labourers of Tea Estates in that area are paid their salaries well in time in cash by the estate authorities concerned. As the professional tax deducted as TDS from the salaries of the plantation labourers affects their livelihood, they should be exempted to pay tax up to an income limit of Rs. 5 lakh per year. Plantation labourers working in Malukkappaarai of Kerala get a daily wage of Rs. 386/- and there is a possibility of this wage being revised. On the contrary, plantation labourers from Valpaarai of Tamil Nadu get a daily wage of Rs. 312/- which is Rs. 74 less than that of paid in Kerala. It amounts to a loss of Rs. 1350/- per month. The livelihood of labourers is affected. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to ensure that Welfare Acts are adhered to by estate authorities strictly besides enhancing daily wages and a minimum of 20 per cent bonus and gratuity for 30 days per year, to the plantation labourers of Tamil Nadu. Moreover, the demand from labourers for two fold daily wage for work on holidays should be fulfilled.