

**Title: Regarding legislation to guarantee Parja Patta rights for tea and Cinchona garden workers-Laid**

**SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING):** The 171<sup>st</sup> report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce has noted that the tea garden workers of Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars are exploited and they continue to live a life of servitude under a feudalistic set up. One of the main forms of exploitation is that even 76-years after our Independence, the workers don't have right to their ancestral land. Successive State Governments have refused their rights. The Government of West Bengal is now proposing to give them the same Patta rights that's given to the refugees and landless people. Tea garden and Cinchona garden workers are not landless or refugees. They have their ancestral land. They don't have the Government document related to their land. West Bengal Government is denying them land rights, as they want to allegedly hand over these land to real estate mafia. The Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended a national law for ensuring land rights to our tea garden and cinchona garden workers. The only way to ensure justice for them is through suitable legislation enacted by Parliament. I request the Union Government to bring a legislation to guarantee Parja Patta rights for our tea and cinchona garden workers on the lines of the Forest Rights Act.