

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1384
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2004
WELFARE OF TEA LABOURERS
Sonowal Shri Sarbananda

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken by the Government for the health, care and education of tea labourers and their children working in the tea industries in Assam;
- (b) the actions taken against the tea industries for violation of the statutory mandates for the protection of the working class therein; and
- (c) the number of tea industries in Assam which have been penalized for violating the provisions of payment of Bonus Act, 1965 during the last one year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

(a): The Plantations Labour Act enacted by the Government of India in the year 1951 provides for the welfare of plantation labour and regulates the conditions of work in plantations, including tea. This Act covers various welfare measures including health care and educational facilities required to be provided by the tea garden management. The concerned State Government is the appropriate authority under the said Act to monitor the implementation of the various provisions in the Act. The Act also empowers the State Governments to make appropriate rules in this regard. Accordingly the Government of Assam, has made provisions for health care and primary educational facilities to plantation workers' children in the Assam Plantations Labour Rules, 1956. Tea Board also supports some welfare programmes and activities for the benefit of tea plantation workers and their dependants such as education (stipends, construction & extension of schools and colleges, etc.) and health care (purchase of medical equipments, construction & extension of hospitals, etc.) through their regular plan schemes.

(b) & (c): Information is being collected.