

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:95
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2015
PLANTATION WORKERS
Ajmal Shri Sirajuddin

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the approximate number of workers employed in various organised/unorganized plantations including tea gardens in the country including Assam at present;
- (b) the details of welfare schemes under the plantation Labour Act, 1951 being implemented for tea garden workers in the country, particularly in Assam;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ensure the registration of all plantation workers in the unorganised sector including tea garden and other workers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the mechanism put in place for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 95 BY SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL REGARDING 'PLANTATION WORKERS' TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.03.2015.

(a): As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, approximately 23.93 lakh workers are employed in the Tea, Coffee, Rubber and Cardamom Plantations. This includes approximately 11.28 lakhs employed in the Tea Plantations.

(b): The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 provides for regulation of the working conditions and welfare of workers in the Tea Plantations. The Tea Board undertakes various welfare activities for tea plantation workers and their dependants under the Human Resource Development (HRD) Scheme of the Board. The welfare activities undertaken by the Board are supplemental in nature and are in addition to Plantation Labour Act which is implemented by the State Government and cover general welfare measures. The HRD Scheme aims at achieving improvements in the life and living conditions of the Tea Plantation labourers and their dependants as indicated in Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): There is no proposal to register Plantation Workers in the unorganized sector with the respective Commodity Boards. However, such workers are covered under the relevant provisions of the Employees Provident Fund and Misc. Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952, except in the State of Assam. The Tea Plantation Workers in Assam are covered in the Assam Tea Plantations' Provident Fund, Pension Fund and Deposit Linked Insurance Fund Act, 1955. The Plantation Workers who are covered under the EPF & MP Act are given Universal Account Number (UAN) by the EPFO.