

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2831
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015
SOCIAL SECURITY FOR TEA WORKERS
Sarmah Shri Ram Prasad

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

(a) whether the Government implements any scheme to pay sufficient compensations to dependents of labourers working in the tea gardens in the county; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the other measures including policy adopted, if any, for social and economic security of tea garden workers in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): The workers and their dependents in tea gardens are provided basic welfare services and amenities e.g. housing, medical and primary education, water supply, sanitation etc. under the Plantation Labour Act, 1951. The Act provides for compensation only to a worker in plantation in case of accident in accordance with the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

Besides, the government implements through the Tea Board various welfare activities for tea plantation workers and their dependants in tea estates. The welfare activities undertaken by the Tea Board under the Human Resource Development (HRD) Scheme aim at improving the health and hygiene of workers, education of wards of workers and imparting training to improve skills for growers/workers.

Under the health and hygiene programme, financial support is provided for augmenting the infrastructure of the tea garden hospitals/health centres and procurement of medical equipment, and accessories, ambulance etc. Family welfare education programme and scouting and guiding activities are also supported for the benefits of children of the workers. Financial assistance is given to physically challenged plantation workers and their wards by providing crutches, caliper shoes, artificial limbs etc.

Under the Education and Training support programme, books, uniforms and educational stipends are given to the wards of workers. Vocational training programmes are organised for skill improvement and self employment of the dependants of the workers.

During the XI Plan Period (2007-12) the total amount disbursed for these purposes by the Tea Board was Rs.20.15 Cr. During the first two years of the XII Plan i.e. 2012-13 and 2013-14, the Board has spent Rs.14.31 cr. and Rs.8.93 Cr. respectively on such programmes.