

Title: Urged upon the Government to intervene and protect the interests of workers of Valparai Tea Estate in Tamil Nadu.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (POLLACHI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would like to raise a matter regarding the problems faced by the tea growers in Valparai, in my constituency, Pollachi...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, on the same subject, my notice is also there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I have also given a notice on the same subject...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your notice is not there on this subject, but I will give you the floor later.

DR. C. KRISHNAN : Sir, there are a lot of tea plantations in my constituency Pollachi and the wages of the workers have been unilaterally reduced by the owners there.

Sir, the wage agreement for the workers of tea plantation in Valparai Tea Estate in Tamil Nadu ended on 31st December 2001. They are not receiving their pay from that day onwards, for the past three months. The owners of tea plantation have taken a unilateral decision of reducing the daily wages from Rs. 75 to Rs. 64. The workers are starving. They have not received the payment from 1.1.2002. The Government should intervene in this matter.

The Government has increased the import tax from 70 per cent to 100 per cent and also there is a tax reduction of one per cent. Even though the Government has given such facilities for tea plantation, the owners of tea plantation have reduced their wage from Rs. 75 to Rs. 64. The Government should intervene and find out a way-out to protect the employees of tea plantation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the same matter, Shri A.K.S. Vijayan has given a notice. Shri A.K.S. Vijayan...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (NASIK): Sir, I have given a notice. Please allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On many days, we had no Zero Hour, Shri Dhikale. You will get a chance to speak. I am taking up the matters according to the importance.

Now, Shri A.K.S. Vijayan. Have you given a notice to speak in Tamil in writing?