

Title : Problems being faced by rubber, tea, coffee and spices plantation workers in Kerala.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (MUKUNDAPURAM): Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House the problems of lakhs of plantation workers, such as, more than 26,000 workers in Kerala are adversely affected and suffering due to the closure and abandonment of about 23 tea estates. Keeping in view the various problems being faced by the plantation workers of rubber, tea, coffee and spices including cardamom, I would request the Government to kindly take the following steps to help the poor workers: (i) create a fund as announced in the Union Budget for 2003-04 for development, modernization and rehabilitation of plantation sector; (ii) allocate social sector funds for providing better basic amenities like primary health, water, sanitation, etc. to the poor plantation workers; (iii) provide health and welfare facilities as prescribed in the Plantation Labour Act to the workers and their families; (iv) provide ESI medical facilities to the workers and their families; (v) ensure that the provident fund dues to the workers are credited to the workers' accounts regularly and released at the time of their retirement; and (vi) to find solution to settle the issue of provident fund dues to the workers in the entire plantation sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P. Karunakaran - not present.

Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi - not present.