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Title: Need to amend the Plantation Labour Act of 1951 to protect workers of tea garden from exploitation by employers.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY (JALPAIGURI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for permitting me to speak in the 'Zero Hour'.

I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to an important issue through you. During the last 55 to 56 years, many developments and changes have taken place in tea plantation industry. But the Plantation Labour Act of 1951 is not able to cope with the changing situation. It is failing to protect the interest of the workers and the employees working in tea gardens. It is not able to deal with the serious issues like non-payment of gratuity, provident fund, providing house and house rent, providing drinking water and medical facilities to the workers.

Tea garden workers who are living in pathetic conditions are virtually living at the mercy of employers. Due to the manipulation of labour laws by the employers, these hapless workers are deprived of their real wages and other benefits. Even the agreements that are reached at conciliatory meetings between the employers and the employees are disregarded and violated.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to come with an amendment law to save the workers from the primitive exploitation by the tea garden employers.