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\*title: Regarding problems being faced by the workers of Tea gardens in Assam.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR): Madam, I want to raise a very important issue relating to Assam touching about 30 lakh population and 10 lakh tea workers.

The tea gardens are the soul of Assam; and the tea industry is the only industry, which has hundred years of vibrant history in Assam and is still going in good health. The tea industry is also the largest employing industry in Assam employing about 10 lakh workers and serving about 30 lakh tea garden population.

But, Madam, the condition of tea workers is very bad in Assam. There is no healthcare facility; there is no education beyond lower primary school. There is no high school, there is no institution, there is no college in the tea gardens. Even there is no potable water in tea gardens. The wage paid to the tea workers is only Rs. 94 per day. Just imagine, in today's world, Rs. 94 is the wage per day! Though they are giving *aata* and rice, at subsidized rate, yet it is not enough.

If you go to the tea garden areas, it is the most poor area in the State. People are uneducated. Alcoholism is playing a major role there, which is affecting their health and economic conditions.

So, it is my humble request to the Government of India and to the Government of Assam to raise their wages to Rs. 250 per day; provide good quality ration at subsidized rates; give them good healthcare and hospital facilities. They should also set up higher education institutions in the tea gardens so that the people can dream up tomorrow. But today, they are rotting. They do not have even apparel, wearing clothes in this season. There are no good houses to live in.

Madam, I would again request the Government of India, the Government of Assam and the Tea Garden Authorities to provide all these facilities to the tea garden workers, who are very poor and deprived persons. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bharion is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ram Prasad Sarmah.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री राजेन्द्र अग्रवाल - उपस्थित नहीं।

श्री जनार्दन मिश्र।