

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3932
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th JULY, 2019

TEA GARDEN WORKERS

3932. SHRI PALLAB LOCHAN DAS:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to improve the working conditions of tea garden workers in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to fix any Minimum Wage Support Act for the labourers working in tea gardens and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has implemented any scheme to pay sufficient compensation to dependents of labourers working in the tea gardens in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and other measures including policy adopted, if any, for social and economic security of tea garden workers in the country; and
- (e) the total amount disbursed for such purposes by the Government during the last four years and the current year?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) to (e): The working conditions of tea garden workers in the country are governed by the Plantation Labour Act (PLA), 1951, administered by the Ministry of Labour & Employment and enforced by the concerned state governments, which, inter alia, provide for basic welfare services and amenities namely housing, medical and primary education, water supply and sanitation.

The Tea Board also extends certain welfare measures for the tea workers and their wards/dependants, which are supplemental in nature. The labour welfare measures are undertaken within the ambit of the Human Resource Development (HRD) component under the Tea Development & Promotion Scheme. The Tea Board has disbursed a sum of Rs.17.76 Crores in the last 4 years (2015-16 to 2018-19) and the current year (upto 30.06.2019-provisional) under the HRD component for the benefit of workers and their wards/dependants.

The workers of the tea industry are also covered by various industrial and social security legislations like the Employees' Compensation Act, 1923, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, (Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund, the Pension Fund and

Deposit Link Insurance Fund Scheme Act 1955 – only for Assam), the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act, 1946.

The fixation of minimum wages for tea garden workers falls under the purview of State Governments as per the provision under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The wages of tea garden workers are fixed as per the agreement reached between producer associations and workers unions.
