

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1994
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th MARCH, 2021

STEPS FOR WELFARE OF TEA AND COFFEE WORKERS

1994. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken for the welfare of Tea and Coffee workers, especially women and their children, in States in the last five years and the current year, and response received thereto; and
- (b) whether Government has devised special scheme/s, if so, the details thereof and results yielded and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) : The working conditions and the welfare measures for workers working in the tea and coffee plantations in the country are governed by the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 (PLA). The Act requires the employers to provide the workers, including women, with housing, medical facilities, sickness & maternity benefits and other forms of social security measures. There are provisions for educational facility for the children, drinking water, conservancy, canteens, crèches and recreational facilities for the benefit of the tea plantation workers and their families in and around the work places in the tea and coffee plantations.

Besides PLA, number of other industrial and social security legislations such as Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, Payment of Gratuity act, 1972, The Employee's Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund, Pension Fund and Deposit Link Insurance Fund Scheme Act 1955 – only for Assam), Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Maternity Benefit Act 1961, Payment of Wages Act 1936 etc. provide various benefits like gratuity, bonus, provident fund, equal remuneration etc. to tea and coffee plantation workers.

Tea Board and Coffee Board also undertake certain welfare measures for the welfare of tea and coffee plantation workers and their wards/dependents, through the "Tea Development & Promotion Scheme" (TPDS) and "Integrated Coffee Development Project" (ICDP). The Human Resource Development (HRD) component of these schemes aims at achieving improvement in

the life and living conditions of the tea and coffee plantation workers and their dependents under the areas such as education of wards of workers and training to the plantation workers/wards/dependents of workers. TPDS also has provisions aimed at improving the health and hygiene of workers and their dependent.

During the last 5 years (2015-16 to 2019-20) and the current year 2020-21 (up to 08.03.2021, the Tea Board and the Coffee Board has provided the following financial assistance under the HRD component for the welfare of tea and coffee plantation workers.

(Rs. in Crores)							
Sl. No.	Scheme/Project	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (up to 08.03.2021)
1	Tea Development & Promotion Scheme	4.99	4.65	6.78	3.59	5.78	1.81
2.	Integrated Coffee Development Project	1.80	1.02	1.10	1.60	2.79	1.14

*Source: Tea Board and Coffee Board

Welfare measure undertaken under these schemes have benefited the plantation workers including women by providing better working conditions and helped the children of tea and coffee plantation workers in pursuing higher education. Provision of medical equipment to the tea garden hospitals has helped in improvement of the health of tea plantation workers.

- (b) The Central Government has announced a special scheme to be implemented during 2021-22 to 2025-26, with budgetary outlay of Rs.1000 cr. for the welfare of tea workers especially women and their children in the States of Assam & West Bengal. The scheme aims towards upliftment of the quality of life of the workers and their dependents in tea gardens of Assam and West Bengal with special emphasis on the women workers and their daughter.
