

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding the wage disbursement of Kerala tea plantation workers.

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Sir, the tea plantation sector in Kerala generally sustains a large number of people directly and indirectly. There are 104 tea estates all over Kerala. There are 74 tea estates in my constituency, including Munnar and Peermade, 29 in Wayanad and three each in Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram.

Unfortunately, the labourers, who are working in these estates, are from socially and economically backward sectors. Their living conditions are very poor. They do not have enough housing facilities and there is lack of water and sanitation, and other basic needs also. They are living in the housing structures called *layams* which are not being properly maintained. Their maintenance is the responsibility of the management, but they are maintaining them because of their financial crises.

In Peermade Taluk, there are 38 estates but only 17 are working partially. The wage disbursement is happening very rarely and labour strikes are very common. Due to this a very critical situation has arisen. The survival of labourers is in crisis.

That is why I urge upon the Government to look into this. I already met hon. Finance Minister two times, and through you, I am requesting the hon. Prime Minister to make a comprehensive, constructive and immediate announcement of a special package of Rs. 1,000 crore just like it has already been announced for Assam and Bengal in the last Budget.

Thank you, Sir.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री मनीश तिवारी जी, आपका विषय लॉटरी में खुला है, लेकिन इस विषय पर लोग कई बार बोल चुके हैं ।

श्री मनीश तिवारी (आनंदपुर साहिब): अध्यक्ष जी, अगर आपकी अनुमति हो,...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : अनुमति तो देनी पड़ेगी, यह आपका अधिकार है ।