

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1315
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025

WELFARE OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS

1315. Md. Rakibul Hussain:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to improve the welfare, working conditions and wages of tea garden workers in Assam and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the initiatives taken by the Government to tackle the shortage of skilled labour in Assam's tea estates through education and training programmes; and
- (c) whether there are any Government welfare schemes for the benefit of the tea garden workers and their families in healthcare, housing and education and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): The working conditions of the plantation workers, including tea plantations of North Bengal region, are governed and monitored by the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, through the concerned State Governments, for which separate Rules are framed by them. The said Act aims to create a framework that ensures fair and humane conditions of work, promotes the welfare of plantation workers and their families viz. housing, medical and primary education, water supply, sanitation etc.

Besides, the Central Government, through the Tea Board implements various welfare activities for tea plantation workers and their dependents in the area of health, hygiene, training and education.

The Government of Assam, in collaboration with the Central Government, has undertaken several initiatives to address the shortage of skilled labour in Assam's tea estates through education and training programs. These initiatives focus on enhancing the skill set of tea estate workers, improving employability, and ensuring the sustainability of the tea industry.

Under Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) specialized training is provided in tea cultivation, plucking, pruning, pest management, and mechanization. The Government has also upgraded Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and established Skill Development Centres in tea-growing regions to offer courses in plantation management, food processing, and agro-based industries. The Tea Board of India, in partnership with the Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI), conducts skill-building workshops and certification programs for tea estate workers.

Further, the Assam Government also provides scholarships and financial aid to children of tea estate workers to ensure better access to education and skill enhancement. The Tea Tribes Welfare Department of State Government runs various programs focused on education, vocational training, and self-employment opportunities for tea estate workers and their families. Programs like SVAYEM (Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment Scheme) encourage entrepreneurship among tea estate workers.
