

an>

Title : Problems being faced by labour in tea industry.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (DIBRUGARH): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the tea industry is the only industry in the country which involves highest numbers of labours. But the condition of the labour involved in this industry is very pathetic. There are no medical facilities; there are no good schools. Their problems have never been taken up. Today, the tea community is a strong labour force in Assam. Yet, they are living a life of medieval peasants in Europe. In the present day, tea industry is considered to be one of the most important modern agriculture industries. No one is interested to uplift their lives. The labours, the planters are hankering at the cost of the right of the hard working labour

[p35]

.

But for the last 58 years of India's independence, be it the Central Government or the State Government, collection of taxes is the only duty done so far.

Therefore, at least, someone whether it is the Government or the proprietors or the leaders of the society must take up the responsibility to extend a hand of co-operation to the labours.

Sir, I have some humble submission before you which I want to submit in written form. This has been discussed in this august House many a time, but neither the Government of Assam nor the Government of India has been taking up the distinct problems of the tea labourers. Therefore, I would humbly request the Government of India to kindly take up the issues of labourers of tea gardens in Assam seriously.