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Title: Reported strike called by tea garden labourers demanding increase in daily wages.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY: I informed you that there is an acute problem of tea garden workers of Terai and Dooars area in my constituency Jalpaiguri in West Bengal. A previous three-year wage agreement ended on 31st March, 2011. ...(*Interruptions*) But the new agreement was not made despite four sittings already held. Now, all the Trade Unions, including the INTUC, the CITU, etc., have called for a three-day strike from 10th to 12th August, 2011. The strike is on and fifteen lakh of tea garden workers have joined this strike.

At present, a permanent tea worker gets only Rs.67/- per day in the Terai and Dooars area. As per MGNREGS, the workers should get a minimum of Rs. 130/- per day. So, the tea garden workers have been deprived by the tea garden owners. The Coordination Committee of the Trade Unions, which includes more than 20 organisations like CITU, INTUC, have decided to strike after a failed attempt to reach an agreement on 4th and 5th August, 2011. A tripartite meeting in Kolkata called by the State Labour Department to finalise a wage agreement between the State, planters and trade unions ended without any settlement. No result has come from this tripartite meeting. The Coordination Committee of Planters Association (CCPA) was reluctant to increase wages for tea workers following the trade union demands. The angry trade union leaders have called three days strike from 10th August to 12th August, 2011. The strike has started and it is continuing from 10th August. The demand of the tea garden workers is to fix the wage rate at Rs. 167/- per day *in lieu* of Rs. 67/- with variable Dearness Allowance. But the tea garden owners did not pay attention to solve the same. *Bhartiya Adibashi Vikas Parishad* backed trade unions has already stopped dispatching tea from factory and warehouses in the Terai and Dooars area from 9th August and called an indefinite strike from 9th August.

There is no alternative way to demand an increase in tea garden workers wages. All the trade unions called a strike when planters were inflexible and refused to accept their demands.

So, I would like to urge upon the Union Government to resolve the present crises of the tea workers. I would also request the hon. Minister to constitute a Labour Wage Board immediately.

श्री सैयद शाहनवाज़ हुसैन (भागलपुर): उपाध्यक्ष जी, शरद यादव जी जब बोल रहे थे, तब माइक ठीं नहीं चला। ...(व्यवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष मठोदय : शरद यादव जी, ये जो बोल रहे हैं, इनके भाषण के बाद आप बोलिये। ...(व्यवधान)

श्री सैयद शाहनवाज़ हुसैन : उपाध्यक्ष जी, मेरा कठना है कि जब शरद यादव जी बोल रहे थे तो इनका माइक कर्यों नहीं चला?

उपाध्यक्ष मठोदय : माइक चलेगा, आप बैठ जाइये। शरद यादव जी, आप इनके बाद बोलियेगा, अभी बैठ जाइये। ...(व्यवधान)

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार (कौशाम्बी): उपाध्यक्ष जी, इस विषय पर सभी दलों को बोलने दिया जाए। ...(व्यवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष मठोदय : आप सभी लोग अपने को इनके कथन से सम्बद्ध कर दीजिए। शरद यादव जी, आप बोलिये। ...(व्यवधान)