

>

Title: Need to re-open tea gardens and compensate jobless tea-plantation workers.

DR. TARUN MANDAL (JAYNAGAR): Thousands of Tea plantation workers in West Bengal are starving due to closure of number of Tea Gardens in Jalpaiguri and adjacent districts. They are suffering due to malnutrition, lack of care and attention. Recently some of the starving workers have sought permission from the chief Minister to willingly end their lives.

The State Government is not providing any compensation or any monetary allowances as promised for the closed tea garden workers. With no work, no food, no electricity, no medical treatment their lot are leading towards doom. A few hundred jobless workers, compelled to work in stone factories are paid Rs. 40 a day, not possible to sustain a human life.

The West Bengal Government in collaboration with Central Government should reopen these gardens, rehabilitate these workers by providing re-employment and pay them reasonable remuneration to lead a humanly life. Unless re-employed they should be given adequate compensation, for their food, housing, clothing and medical treatment.