



## **Assam Tea Growers Protest Against Fall in Price of Raw Tea Leaves**

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GUWAHATI: The All Assam Small Tea Growers Association (AASTGA) staged a protest in Jorhat against the sudden fall in price of raw tea leaves on June 10. In a memorandum submitted to the Tea Board of India and the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Jorhat, tea growers have demanded for prices of raw produce to be increased to Rs. 40 per kg.

Members of AASTGA stated that the small tea growers of Assam have been incurring huge losses due to the sudden fall in the price of raw tea leaves. From June onwards, price for raw tea leaves fell from Rs. 45 to Rs. 29.

The association further said that while the small tea gardens have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, an increase in the price from Rs. 40 to Rs. 45 in 2020 had provided some respite. However, the sudden dive of Rs. 16 has rendered a massive blow on them.

The AASTGA has demanded that the price of raw leaves be restored to Rs. 40 at the earliest, adding that local factories have been plummeting the price as they deem fit without proper regulation.

Members of the association reportedly gheraoed (surrounded) the office of the TeaBoard of India as well.

Sources in the tea board have clarified that this is a regular occurrence and the price has decreased due to overproduction. "It's simple maths of supply and demand. The prices have decreased due to overproduction and given the present situation, there is every possibility that the price will decrease further," the source added.

Dipanjol Deka, Secretary of the Tea Association of India told G Plus, "The emergence of a large number of small growers without any regulation has led to such problems. Production is outstripping the consumption of tea in India. We have been asking the government and the administration to formulate some regulations."

He suggested that an increase in consumption and a check in the mushrooming of small tea growers will prove beneficial to such issues in due course.