

Assam government decides to provide tea garden labourers employment under MGNREGA

Synopsis

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By [Bikash Singh](#), ET Bureau

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Assam government has decided to provide **Tea garden labourers** employment under **MGNREGA** during the winter season when tea production is lean.

Several non permanent works do not have jobs during winters as there is no tea leaves to be plucked.

Assam cabinet has decided that they will be provided work in pond excavation, road building etc under MGNREGA. Under MGNREGA, valuable trees like Agar, Som etc will be planted for economic benefit. Also community ponds will be created under MGNREGA in large numbers.

Assam has more than 10 **lakh tea workers** in the organised sector, working in about 850 big estates. The state produces roughly 55% of India's tea. The tea belts of Brahmaputra and Barak valleys are home to more than 60 lakh people.

The BJP-led government in Assam has recently withdrawn a February notification that increased the daily wages of plantation workers by Rs 50, and announced the setting up of a new committee for fixing the minimum wage.

The minimum wage before the Rs 50 interim hike was Rs 167 a day. The government said the workers would get Rs 205 a day until the Gauhati High Court decided on a petition before it.

Tea garden wages was a hotly debated issue in the recent assembly polls.

The cabinet has decided funds received under 15th Finance Commission would be utilised for renovating schools, parks etc in the villages. **Guwahati**

Development Department and **Urban Development Department** would be merged and renamed as Housing & Urban Affairs Department

General Administration Dept and Secretariat Administration Dept would be merged and renamed as General Administration Department. Information and public relations department would be empowered to directly approve necessary payment against the advertising dues of print and electronic media houses.

Cabinet declared Golaghat and Sarupathar Revenue Circles as drought hit. Revenue & Disaster Management Minister Jogen Mohan and Irrigation Minister Ashok Singhal would travel there in presence of Finance Minister Ajanta Neog and inquire about drought incidents for releasing compensations.

The present residence of Chief Justice of Assam would be declared as a heritage building and preservation measures would be taken.