

Tea workers demand wage hike



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Robertson Tanti 4 July 2018 Updated 5 Jul 11833 views

Tea garden [workers](#) of Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha ([ACMS](#)), Mangaldai [ACMS](#) Branch, in [Udalguri](#) district and activists staged a dharna on Wednesday in the front of the tea garden managers office premise with a demand to fix the wage of the tea garden [workers](#) up to Rs 350. The protesting [leaders](#) said that tea garden [workers](#)' unions had persisted with their demand of hike in daily wages to Rs. 350 and appealed to the authority concerned several times but their [demands](#) had turned into deaf ears. They added that both the Centre and State governments do not think about the [welfare](#) of the tea [workers](#)' community, except when they need them as vote bank. Only during the period of election, political party [leaders](#) come to tea garden areas and give assurance to the labourers that their [demands](#) would be fulfilled. But after the election, they all forget their assurances. Being aggrieved, [workers](#) of Borengajuli, [Dimakuchi](#), Bamonjuli, [Orangajuli](#), [Nonaipara](#), Bhooteachang, Corramore, Hattigor, [Bhergaon](#), [Paneri](#) and many gardens under [ACMS](#) Branch Mangaldai came out to protest and shouted slogans against the tea company owners, State Labour Minister.

The units under Managldai [ACMS](#) Branch submitted memorandum to the State Labour Minister through the garden managers and a copy to Labour Commissioner, reiterating their demand for implementation of the State's Minimum Wage Act in the tea plantations of Assam. In a memorandum, it demanded payment of wages and bonus to the tea [workers](#) of the State as [soon](#) as possible, action against defaulting tea estates and hiking minimum daily wage for tea [workers](#) to Rs 350.

Mangaldai [ACMS](#) Branch Organizing Secretary, Siman Nag said, “Six months have passed but the government hasn’t taken any initiative regarding the wage hike of tea [workers](#). The government had prepared a wages board of which Labour Minister, Pallab Lochan [Das](#) himself was the Chairman of the board yet nothing so far has taken place regarding wage hike. The BJP government had been assuring till now but not a single task executed for the [welfare](#) of the tea [workers](#). The [state](#) government had taken resolution to hike the tea [workers](#) wage.

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Borengajuli Tea Estate Dimakuchi, Udalguri, Assam

BY ROBERTSON TANTI

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