

## Assam Tea Plantation Workers Betrayed

In the ongoing state assembly elections in Assam, in one third of the constituencies tea plantation workers lay a crucial part as voters. So the contesting ruling parties B.J.P. and congress party started wooing the tea plantation workers that if they come to governmental power they would increase their minimum wages considerably.

The congress party which was in power in central government for decades that did not attempt to fix fair or reasonable minimum wages to tea plantation workers now woos and promises them that it would give minimum daily wage of Rs. 365/- if voted to power.

The BJP which is already in power in centre and state had dramatically announced a hike in the daily wages of plantation workers from Rs.167 to Rs.217, with a “meager” hike of Rs.50/- to attract their votes.

But this hike in daily wages is less than a draft notification issued in 2018 itself has fixed the wages for the workers of small tea gardens at Rs.244/-. More over the BJP in its vision document of 2016 had promised a daily wage of Rs.351 for tea workers.

The Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha (ACMS) has criticised this meager hike in daily wages stating that the government has not fulfilled its commitment and workers expectations.

While the opposition parties dubbed the wage hike as BJP’s poll gimmick, the tea workers feel that they are betrayed.