

Meet on tea staff wages

Siliguri: The state labour department has held a tripartite meeting here to discuss on the revision of salaries paid to staff and sub-staff who are employed in the tea industry of the state.

In north Bengal, there are around 20,000-odd employees who work in as many as 11 different categories as staff and sub-staff in tea gardens.

In March this year, the state had proposed an interim hike of Rs 17.50 over the daily wage rate of tea workers. Tea planters had accepted the proposal and revised the daily wage rate to Rs 150.

"However, the salaries of staff and sub-staff continued to remain unaltered. That is why, the meeting was held to discuss on revision of their pay," said Alok Chakraborty, an Intuc leader based in Siliguri.

State ministers Moloy Ghatak and Gautam Deb, MLAs from tea belts, officials of state labour department, representatives of tea planters' associations and trade unions were present at the meeting earlier this week.

It continued for over oneand-half hours, after which Ghatak, who is the state labour minister, said a proposal has been mooted for revising salaries of the staff and sub-staff.

Tea industry sources said the average monthly earnings of the staff and the sub-staff ranges from Rs 5,700 to Rs 17,000, depending on the grade and post of the employee..

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