

# PROGRESSIVE PLANTATION WORKER'S ) UNION (PPWU



**Terai-Duars**

**CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

**Regd. No. 21919**

**Head Office: Nagrakata (Sahid Mahadev More)**

**P.O & P.S NAGRAKATA, Dist. JALPAIGURI (W.B)**

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Ref no. : 96/PPWU/2022

Date: 26/04/2022

**The Additional Labour Commissioner,  
Siliguri  
Government Of West Bengal**

Sir,

**Sub : *Blatant disregard towards dignity and legitimate rights of tea workers by owners' organizations***

We are deeply concerned about the attitude and approach of the owners' representatives at the 'seemingly' tripartite meeting for wage negotiation held on 4 April, 2022. Till then, the never ending series of such exercises remained a platform to defy workers' rights and the issue of legalizing their claim for a basic minimum wage under a camouflaged concern. The latest meeting in April, 2022 witnessed an overwhelming effort to establish its supremacy by CCPA - almost dictating terms and defying every other constituent concerned. To an extent that even the state government's honourable representative (Shri Becharam Manna) was visibly embarrassed. The workers' plea takes a back-seat when even the Labour Minister is subjected to such humiliation.

We refrain from talking about some illusionary expression as 'interim increase' that continues and remain 'interim' forever. It's imperative that declaration of a legally binding minimum wage to a 'respectable' level must remain an immediate concern for the state government that must not fall prey or made to dance to the tune of predominantly pleased owners who go all out to reap maximum benefit from the boon they have been handed over - utilizing 15% of existing garden land for different purposes.

There comes the issue of land rights of the workers. Workers residing and hence developed and engaged thoroughly in all societal culture - a culture and living hood over maybe 150- 200 years - are legally homeless. Contrarily, the owners do possess the right to engage in business activities in almost whatever manner they wish. Straight away, this is not acceptable.

Efforts to undermine the land rights issue have been almost universal - governments and owners alike. Apartheid remain the tea workers despite all legislations and so called positive moves .

We urge:

- Immediate declaration and implementation of minimum wage without further moves to mentally intimidate workers through never ending bargaining process.
- Homestead rights for tea plantation workers.
- Social security for tea workers.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,  
for PPWU

  
26/04/2022

**Kiran Kalindi  
President**

Office of the  
Addl. Labour Commissioner,  
N.S. Zone, Shramik Bhaban, Siliguri  
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