

# LABOUR AND WELFARE IN TEA PLANTATION: A COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN INDIA AND SRI LANKA

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## I. Introduction

The tea plantation was introduced both in India and Sri Lanka by the colonisers. The growing demand for tea in Europe coupled with the suitable geo-climatic conditions in North-India and Sri Lanka led to the growth of the industry in these countries. Soon the tea industry emerged into a major industry in the economies of both countries and led to the development of a modern life along with a new social structure. According to Edgar Thompson tea has fashioned the whole environment inherited by the people of these countries.<sup>2</sup> In the colonial period the tea industry became the primary export commodity and foreign exchange earner both in India and Sri Lanka. It is an industry which requires labour throughout the year, and the nature of work needs the involvement of both the male and female labour force.

Plucking of tea leaves is an important activity and is a specialised job done by the female work force in India and Sri Lanka. The tea industry provides employment to about one million workers in India and to 0.28 million in Sri Lanka. These workers constitute around four per cent of the labour force in Sri Lanka.<sup>3</sup> Though the percentage of the tea workers is marginal in the total labour force in India, their participation is substantial in the respective tea producing states within the country. For example, the tea workers constituted around 28 per cent and 65 per cent of the total labour force in West Bengal<sup>4</sup> and Assam respectively in 1999. India and Sri Lanka are the world's largest producers and exporters of tea. The tea production of these two countries reached a record level of approximately 1100 million

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<sup>2</sup> Beckford, L. George. 1983. *Persistent Poverty: Under Development in Plantation Economies of the Third World*, Maroon Publishing House, Morant Bay, Jamaica, pp 3-5.

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Plantation Industry, (2000), *Plantation sector Statistical Pocket Book 1998*, Colombo, pp. 113-14 and Statistical Department, Central Bank of Sri Lanka (1997), *Economic Social Statistics of Sri Lanka 1996*, Colombo, p. 13.

<sup>4</sup> Directorate of Census Operations Directorate of Census Operations, *District Census Handbook, Village and Town Directory, Darjeeling District, West Bengal, Part XII-A*, p. vii.

kilograms in 1999 (India contributed 780.9 million kilograms and Sri Lanka, 296.8 million kilograms). This was about 37 per cent of the world tea output and roughly 34 per cent of the total tea exports.<sup>5</sup> As far as the export value of tea in the total agriculture is concerned, it was as high as 70 per cent in Sri Lanka in 2000 and as low as 6.45 per cent in India in 1999/2000.<sup>6</sup>

However, apart from this achievement the tea plantation industry in these two countries is now facing with various problems. One of these problems is concerned with the inadequate welfare infrastructures of the tea plantation labourers in recent years. A considerable number of studies have been done about the economic viability of the tea industry, not only in the context of India and Sri Lanka, but for several other developing countries which produce tea and depend on it. However, in recent years, some authors have restricted themselves to the study of the working conditions and welfare problems of the workers in tea estates in general. Therefore, what is needed is an understanding of those various conditions, situations and behavior patterns which not only determine the welfare status of the tea plantation labourers but are also necessary to understand that how the basic amenities of housing, sanitation and medical care are the major welfare programmes for the workers. So, this present study made an attempt to try to analysis the welfare conditions of the tea plantation workers in the tea estates of India and Sri Lanka and whereby made a comparative relationship between these two countries. There is a genre of studies on the welfare conditions of the working class during the period of industrialization. Factors like low wages, work and living conditions were some of the important dimensions addressed. One of the pioneering works in this field is Engels's, (1845) *Conditions of the Working Class in England*. His study illustrates the squalor-like living conditions, meager wages, inhuman working conditions, poor food or at times no food, which resulted in pestilence and even death among the working class. These conditions inevitably led to the widespread prevalence of stealing and prostitution among them. Apart from ill health, problems of over crowding, destitution, crime, alcoholism became rampant in such areas.

As Engels observes on the conditions of the working class:

*" .. If the population of great cities is too dense in general, it is they in particular who are packed into the least space. As though the vitiated atmosphere of the streets were not enough, they are penned in dozens into single rooms so that the air which they breathe at night is enough in itself to stifle them. They are given damp dwellings, cellar dens that*

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<sup>5</sup> Tea Board of Sri Lanka, Annual Report 1999, (2000), Colombo, pp. 1-3.

<sup>6</sup> Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Annual Report 2000, Colombo, p. 162, Table 9.3, and Reserve Bank of India, Economic Survey 1998/99, PS-89. Table 7.3(A).

*are not waterproof from below, or garrets that leak from above. Their houses are so built that the clammy air cannot escape. They are supplied bad, tattered or rotten clothing, adulterated and indigestible food ...”*<sup>7</sup>

Therefore it is clear that, the welfare condition of the plantation labourers has been neglected from the very beginning. In fact, their problems began from the time they began their journey. From the very beginning the labourers got low wages and were ill treated within adequate housing, medical facilities and food which added to their misery.

## **II. The Area of the Study**

Tea industry in India has grown tea in two widely separate regions, namely the North and South India. In Sri Lanka tea estates are spread according to the elevation, viz. the tea grown of high, mid and low elevations. Nine large scale and sixty nine small tea holdings were selected in both the countries for this study. This study is fully based on secondary data. In India these tea growing areas are:

**(i) North India:** The tea growing areas in North India can be divided into three separate geographical regions, viz.

- (i) The North-East Assam.
- (ii) The Surma Valley except Cachar district, and
- (iii) Dooars, Terai and Darjeeling of which Terai and Dooars.

**(ii) South India:** In South India, tea is cultivated mainly in two geographical regions. They are:

- (i) The Blue Mountains (Nilgiri) of the Southern Tamil Nadu, and,
- (ii) The Western Ghats in Kerala.

**(iii) In Sri Lanka** • The Tea Region of High Elevation (TRHE)

- The Tea Region of Mid Elevation (TRME)
- The Tea Region of Low Elevation (TRLE)<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Engels, Federich. 1873. *The Conditions of the Working Class in England*. Moscow: Progress Publishers.

<sup>8</sup> Chattopadhyay, Shatadru, 2001. 'Pressure Groups in the Tea Industry: A Case Study of India and Sri Lanka' PhD thesis, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

### III. The Labour Force

The tea plantation workers come in the category of 'wage labourers' and they are distinctly different from peasants and other industrial wage labourers. In both the countries the labour involved in tea plantations is basically migrant labour. Life in tea estates is arduous compared to traditional occupations, and the tea estates require a specialized labour force both for cultivation and for processing of tea. It is a well-known fact that the availability of labour force throughout the year is a pre-condition to run the tea industry. Tea sector is far more labour intensive compared with other plantation crops. The average land-labour ratio in the large-scale tea estates in these two countries is 2.65. But it significantly varies among the different tea regions. Most of the individual tea estates have their own tea factories due to the fact that the plucked green leaves are to be processed immediately. The labour force in the large-scale tea estates is therefore of two types: (a) workers in the field operation, and (b) workers in the factory operation. Though, the industry has engaged labour force in different tasks, therefore, the study found that the available workers in the field operation are distinctly of three categories in the selected tea estates. They are:

- Resident (permanent) workers,
- Hired workers, and,
- Temporary workers.

The main job of the resident workforce is plucking of tea leaves. This job is, however, largely performed by the resident female workers in both the countries. The male workers, by and large, are engaged in sundry works such as maintenance of the tea bushes by application of fertilizers, weeding, pruning, etc and in processing of tea. The resident male workers handle mostly the posts of chieftains (Sardars in India and Kanganies in Sri Lanka), office assistants, bungalow servants, and watchmen. The hired labourers are known as the nonresident workers. The share of hired workers is very low when compared to the permanent and temporary labour force both in India and Sri Lanka. The temporary workers are generally the children of resident workers. In general the children of the estate workers who join as temporary workers have a desire of becoming permanent workers in the estate. On the other hand the workers in the factory operation form only a fragment of the total workforce. The staff and the executive managers constitute the management of the tea estates. The executive manager and the assistant manager or assistant superintendent is recruited from the elite in the country. Until the industries were nationalised or transformed into the local companies in these countries, the British were employed as managers of estates. The employment policy adopted by the tea gardens in the early years was generally governed by the uniform and agreed

principle of this land man ratio, i.e., 1:2.5. This ratio has been consistently followed in the industry in general, until recent times.

#### **IV. Welfare Amenities**

As per the rules and regulation of the Tea Act 1953, Industrial Employment Standing Order Act 1946, the 15<sup>th</sup> National Labour Conference 1957 and many other laws and government agendas of different time stated that, the tea plantation labourers apart from the salary the workers also get the ration, fuel for cooking, quarter for living, safe drinking water and umbrella for every rainy season and etc. They also get the educational and health facilities too. But the management of the estate has not been protecting their own labour force by providing adequate wages and the basic amenities such as food security, housing facilities, education opportunities, and health as well as medical facilities for their survival. Housing, sanitation and medical care are the major welfare programmes for the workers in tea gardens. By discussing these existing facilities and their influence on the labour force in the large-scale tea estates in India and Sri Lanka the study try to compare the welfare state of the plantation labourers in these two countries.

#### **V. Housing Facilities**

Housing facilities were considered the utmost necessity because the workers were recruited from outside the region. The Labour Ordinances in these two countries require the management to provide housing facilities for the workers. The workers can occupy the house as long as they work in the estate. On dismissal, resignation or retirement from the work the workers and their families could be theoretically evicted from their houses. But in practice, the descendants are absorbed into the tea garden work and allowed to continue the usage of accommodation in India.<sup>9</sup> Most of the workers in the tea estates reside within the estate area. They are housed in rows of rooms, which are generally called labour lines in Sri Lanka. The houses of the tea workers in West Bengal are largely individual houses or huts in clusters. The clusters of the labour lines are strategically located in different parts of the tea estate to enable quick labour deployment and to protect the boundary of the estates.

In India particularly in Darjeeling, no attempt was made in early years to provide housing for the migrant workers. The workers had to construct their own houses. The Sardars would allot the worker his house-

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<sup>9</sup> Nag, A. K. 1990 'The condition of Tea garden Labourers in North-East India and Its Background', in Karotemprel and B. Datta-Ray (ed.), Tea Garden Labourers of North East India, Shillong, Vendrame Institute, p. 55.

site and give the materials needed for construction.<sup>10</sup> This is true in the case of tea gardens of Terai of North Bengal as well. In Terai, the planters were keen on letting the Adivasi (local tribal people) migrant labour live among their own dwellings, according to their customs. The labourers of the same tribe naturally preferred to live near each other and permission to do so was appreciated. The houses are of several types in the tea estates of India. The types include 'Pucca', 'Semi-pucca', and Kuchcha. The workers construct most of the houses with the patronage of estate management. Unlike in India, the planters constructed housing for the tea workers in Sri Lanka. Houses for the migrant plantation workers were riot individual houses like in India. These were barrack-type line rooms, which are a set of row of single rooms and verandas. These were known as the 'labour lines' in Sri Lanka. Approximately, 12 to 15 families live in a single barrack type line. Cottage type houses are constructed for plantation workers in recent years.<sup>11</sup> The planters realise that it is difficult for workers to report for work so early if they stay in far off places. Therefore, housing of workers in the tea garden is of great advantage to the planters in their organisation of work. A minimum of 8 per cent of the total houses have to be constructed annually in the tea estates of India. Compliance to this statutory regulation would have led to the construction of houses for all the permanent resident workers by 1970. But a study conducted in 1984 revealed persistent short falls in the tea estates of North India. The total short fall stood at 65,555 houses as against a total requirement of 210,307 in North Indian tea estates in 1989.<sup>12</sup> As a result, a large number of workers are forced to live in the existing houses which results in over crowding. Whereas, as far as the floor space of the houses is concerned, the Sri Lankan houses (200 square feet) have comparatively more space than the Indian (156 square feet). In India, the entire land of tea estate belongs to the management but, the management does not take any initiative in repairing or expansion of the houses by the resident workers. This was earlier done by the estates. Though the workers do not have the legal authority over their houses, in spite of that, the workers are so attached to them because they are living in these houses from third or fourth generation. Generally the inhabitants do not feel that they are living in the property of the estate or rent-free houses provided by the management. A social worker in Darjeeling stated that, 'The Darjeeling tea became a unique tea solely because of the hard work rendered by these people. The government also benefited in several ways. But, the worker's lives have not

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<sup>10</sup> Bhowmik, Sharit.1981. *Class Formation in the Plantation System*. New Delhi: People's Publishing House

<sup>11</sup> Chattopadhyay, Shatadru, 2001. 'Pressure Groups in the Tea Industry: A Case Study of India and Sri Lanka' PhD thesis, Jawaharlal Nehru University, P-120.

<sup>12</sup> Bhowmik, K. Sharit et al, (1996), *Tea Plantation Labour in India*, New Delhi, FES, P. 60.

developed simply because of the non-existence of ownership right of atleast the living space'.<sup>13</sup>

But on the contrary, as far as Sri Lanka is concerned the implementation of development of infrastructure is still under the purview of the estate management. Most of the workers have been living in the same lines for more than three generations. But the idea of a private ownership has not developed in the minds of the labourer. Several efforts made by the government to provide separate cottages to the workers. A major project for the development of housing for the plantation workers was implemented in the 1980s in Sri Lanka. Plantation Housing Social Welfare Trust (PHSWT) was taken over by the two state corporations, i.e., the Janatha Estate Development Board (JEDB) and the Sri Lanka State Plantation Corporation (SLSPC). The Norwegian and Dutch governments have funded the PHSWT project jointly. One of the main components of the project is the construction of self-help housing in the estates. In addition, the Estate Infrastructure Development Project (EIDP), Plantation Development Support Programme (PDSP) and Plantation Rehabilitation Programme (PRP) are also involved in the development of housing for the tea workers. Some of these projects involve re-roofing of the old houses and providing sanitation facilities to the resident workers.<sup>14</sup>

## **VI. Water supply and sanitation**

The management of the estates has the sole responsibility to supply the safe drinking water and to provide the sanitation facilities to the workers in order to obtain their regular participation in the estate jobs. The extremely poor condition of sanitation facilities has its impact on the labour health and fitness. The Indian Tea Association (ITA) records, found that the rate of absenteeism in 101 gardens in North West Bengal was 31.81 percent in the period of 1938-43. The commission made the point that malaria is an important cause of absenteeism. In the Darjeeling hills of India, there are common pipelines to provide drinking water, and 5-8 families in the estates share a tap. The workers have to rely on rivers or natural springs or wells for their regular water supply. The wells are of two types, pucca (with cemented sides) and kuchcha (without cemented sidewalls). The latter are badly maintained and the puddles around invariably overflow into the well. This presents a health hazard, as many of the cholera epidemics are traceable to the infected water supply. The access to sanitation facilities and latrines is found very poor in Indian Tea gardens. The management started building latrines for workers in the 1980s. The drains in the two estates are in poor

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<sup>13</sup> Chattopadhyay, Shatadru, 2001. 'Pressure Groups in the Tea Industry: A Case Study of India and Sri Lanka' PhD thesis, Jawaharlal Nehru University, P-122

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, P-122-123

condition. There are no permanent drains in the houses of the workers. Whereas, in the case of Sri Lanka, the availability of water supply and latrine facilities are comparatively in better condition. These facilities depend on the pattern of houses occupied by the workers. Recently built twin cottages have an advantage in terms of latrines when compared to the old type barrack lines. Three to four twin cottages, i.e., six to ten family units are sharing water from a single tap. Several agencies like Plantation Housing and Social Welfare Trust (PHWST), Plantation Development Support Programme (PDSP) and Plantation Reform Project (PRP) have been involved in implementing various welfare programmes in order to enhance the welfare facilities to the workers.<sup>15</sup>

## **VII. Medical Facilities**

According to the Plantation Labour Act (PLA), 1951“Section 10- In every plantation there shall be provided and maintained so as to be readily available such medical facilities for the workers (and their families) as may be prescribed by the State Government.” But, the cycle between hunger - disease - low levels of productivity, (measured both in terms of absence from work as well as duration) - low wages - indebtedness -reduced consumption levels - disease, is reflective of how the development process has, largely, bypassed the tea plantation workers. For a majority of the worker, illness has serious economic consequences on their fragile incomes. Thus, on account of the poorly developed market, it is imperative for government to shoulder the responsibility of providing a package of health care services that would provide early cure to malaria, TB and respiratory illnesses, gastrointestinal problems, mother and child health care services, fevers, health and nutrition education. Such a package does not need high investments in equipment's and buildings but requires well trained and motivated health personnel provided with basic facilities. Only such a system would make the health care system of the tea gardens accessible, affordable and need based. In India, an exhaustive survey by the West Bengal Labour Department, of all the 276 tea estates in West Bengal reveals a management and deplorable labour welfare situation along with the miserable living conditions of workers estate-wise. According to the survey report, out of 273 tea estates, only 166 have hospitals. Out of these 166, only 56 tea estates have full time residential doctors. Other 110 tea estates' hospitals depend on visiting doctors. Among doctors of 166 tea estates, only 74 doctors have degree of MBBS, others are non- MBBS. Out of 166 tea estates having hospitals, 116 do not have any nurse. 107 tea estates (hills -64, Terai- 20 and Dooars-23) do not have any hospital. Out of 273 tea estates, 85 do not have any dispensary. Ten tea estates have neither hospital

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid, P-125

nor dispensary. Out of 273 tea estates, primary health centers (PHCs) exist in only 160, 113 tea estates (hills-38, Terai-23 and Dooars-52) do not have any PHC. Out of 273 tea estates, 160 provide ambulance. Many of these ambulances are not up to the standard. This survey report reveals the poor condition of the health and medical facilities of the tea plantation labourers in the tea estates.<sup>16</sup> Most of the tea gardens in North Bengal lack the basic health facilities that, they are supposed to have. A hospital is a distant dream and very few have a crèche as such. In most cases an untrained worker looks after the children of the plantation workers in a run-down building. In more than one garden the crèche is in the place used as a cowshed. The children do not get proper meals. Most dispensaries are ill equipped without enough medicines and with untrained staff, have inadequate drinking water, toilet and basic facilities. A few gardens have trained nurses or even doctors.<sup>17</sup> Different Studies even show that, in India, the garden health professionals if available give the same medicine for different type of diseases. This clearly reveals the acute shortage of medicines of garden hospital or dispensary. Considering the fact that, the garden workers are exposed to several communicable, preventable and occupational diseases and the gardens are located far away from Government hospitals, absence of proper medical facilities including qualified doctors is a matter of major concern for workers and their family members. Furthermore, those seeking medical services outside have run from pillar to pole to reimburse their bills. Surprisingly, the conditions of so-called 'good' gardens do not differ strikingly in this respect. On the other hand, there is a broad legislative framework that was developed over time to ensure provision of basic medical facilities to the plantation workers in Sri Lanka. The selected estates have been benefited by the renovation of hospitals, provision of creches and training to the health assistants during the 1980s. Estate Medical Assistants (EMA) is the chief officers who provide medical facilities to the resident workers in Sri Lanka. Training was given under the sponsorship programme to minimize the worsening of health condition of the tea workers in the estates. The Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) is responsible for healthcare of the workers in TKLE estate in Sri Lanka. The RMP (aged 52) states that the major illnesses that he found are among the women workers in the tea plantation. Most of the complaints are work related illnesses; for example, exposure to cold weather (respiratory illnesses), climbing slopes carrying heavy loads (aching limbs, backache), walking over rough terrain and brushing against sharp twigs (lacerated feet). Above all, the lack of

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<sup>16</sup> Uttar Banga Sambad, 19th May 2014.

<sup>17</sup> Bharali, Gita. 2007. The Tea Crisis, Health Insecurity and Plantation Labourers' Unrest. A seminar paper presented at the seminar "Society Social Change and Sustainable Development". organized by Department of Sociology, N.B.U. April, 2007.

concern about the hazards that women encounter at work, such as those listed, becomes more significant during pregnancy.<sup>18</sup>

### **VIII. Conclusion**

The tea industry in India and Sri Lanka led to the development of a modern life along with a new social structure in the tea growing regions during the colonial period. Tea has since then become an important export commodity and a foreign exchange earner in these countries. The sector is considered a modern industry and the owners of the industry are either leading companies or prominent individuals. But, paradoxically, the working and living conditions of the workers in the tea estates have remained pitiable and this community continues to be backward. The tea estate management usually ignores the labour problems and consequently the tea pluckers lack motivation and interest in their jobs and bound to live in a vulnerable situation. The plantation workers do not own the instruments of production nor do they own their dwelling place or the land on which they work. The resident workers confine themselves to performing the tasks allocated by the estate management. Workers are expected to successfully complete their assigned work by the end of the day. Housing, supply of food (amount deducted from the total wages), welfare facilities are provided to some extent to ensure regular deployment of labour. This has reduced the self-motivation of the tea workers in both the countries.

The major objective of the study is to compare the welfare characteristics given by the management to the workers in the tea estates in India and Sri Lanka. The study looks into the wage structure, availability of the basic needs as the welfare facilities such as the supply of safe drinking water, provision of sanitation as well as the drainage system and the medical facilities etc of the workers in the tea estate. The information and analysis in this study shows clearly the inadequacy of the welfare measures in the labour force of the selected tea estates between these two countries. Study shows a marked contrast between the tea plantations of Sri Lanka and India (West Bengal and Assam) based on the parameters of wages, housing and other welfare amenities. The wage of the tea plantation labourers in Sri Lanka is 378 per day whereas the wage in India particularly in Terai and Dooars is 95 per day.<sup>19</sup> Such difference according to Bhowmik is because of the attitude of the management with regard to better provisioning to the workers in the tea plantations of Sri Lanka. There are very few legal provisions for their protection and the few Acts that exist are mostly in favour of the planters. A path-breaking report of the Fact-Finding Team of

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<sup>18</sup> Chattopadhyay, Shatadru, 2001. 'Pressure Groups in the Tea Industry: A Case Study of India and Sri Lanka' PhD thesis, Jawaharlal Nehru University, P-127.

<sup>19</sup> Uttar Banga Sambad, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

Centre for Education and Communication (CEC, 1999) on the conditions of tea plantation labour, in its study exposes deplorable conditions under which the tea plantation workers of Assam and Bengal in India are living. Moreover the immediate result of industrial sickness and consequent deprivations can be perceived in the lives of the workers, their family members including children belonging to socially and economically marginalized tribal and other communities in India. It has been estimated by CDHR (2006: 26) that more than 3,000 workers of abandoned tea gardens of North Bengal have succumbed to starvation deaths in between 2002 and 2006. Studies also show that 70% of the people of closed tea gardens are in the Chronic Energy Deficiency III stage.<sup>20</sup> Survey conducted on these closed gardens in India in the past also reveal that welfare schemes, the public distribution system and basic amenities like safe drinking water, health care, primary education and electricity were practically non-existent in those gardens.<sup>21</sup> Several survey reports and press coverage make known the cases of starvation deaths, sufferings, malnutrition and human trafficking.

From the above discussion, it is clear that, the immediate situation of deprivations can be perceived the life of the workers, their family members including children belonging to socially and economically marginalized communities in India. Unlike India where the hospital is a distant dream, in Sri Lanka the government takes many steps to look after the health of the tribal tea plantation labourers. In Sri Lanka, there is group hospital for every tea estate and every year a group of doctors come from America and Maryland for the health check up of the workers of the workers. But, in India the concept of group hospital was passed in the Parliament in 1951 but not implemented till date. In India, approx 98,835 labourers almost 50% not get the housing facilities from the management of the plantation sector. But in Sri Lanka, almost all the workers get their houses in the labourer line. Therefore, keeping the vulnerability of the problem in mind, in the conclusion of this comparative study on the aspect of the welfare practices in the tea plantation labourers of India and Sri Lanka in the context of the prevailing situation, it may be said that, Sri Lanka knows the fact that, the success in the industry of the tea plantation only comes by satisfying all the accomplishments in the life of the plantation workers. That's why Sri Lanka tries to gratify at least the basic needs of the

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<sup>20</sup> Biswas, Sarmishtha and Others. 2005. 'Nutritional Survey of Tea Workers on Closed, Re-Opened, and Open Tea Plantations of the Dooars Region, West Bengal, India', Retrieved September 1, 2011, from [www.iufdocuments.org/www/documents/AJWSnutritionreport.pdf](http://www.iufdocuments.org/www/documents/AJWSnutritionreport.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Chaudhury, Sreerupa Mitra and et al 2007. 'The Tragedy of Tea: Starvation Deaths and Disasters Stalk Lives of Tea Garden Workers in West Bengal', Retrieved September 1, 2011, from [inttuc.blogspot.com/2009/05/save-tea-garden-save-workers.htm](http://inttuc.blogspot.com/2009/05/save-tea-garden-save-workers.htm).

plantation workers by providing them the basic welfare amenities. But in India, the scenario is different, here is an ongoing endless race about how to exploits the workers to enhance the vested interest of the industrialists. In India, particularly in North India the workers and the members of their families have been dying likes flies. As most of the tea gardens don't maintain death registers so the exact number of persons who died is not clear, but beside this inconsistency, from informal sources it has been known that, the average number of death per year increased by 241 percent after the closure of the gardens. In a period of one year, 320 persons have died of gastro-enteritis and other stomach ailments and malaria. There thus seems to be a strong link between unemployment, hunger, starvation, malnutrition as well as severe healthcare crisis the lacuna of the basic welfare services and as a result, the deaths that are taking place. Therefore, it may be conclude by saying that, as compare to Sri Lanka the situation is horrible in India.