

# Protest by tea garden workers at Dooars

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JALPAIGURI: Amid chief minister Mamata Banerjee's north Bengal tour, the trade unions of the tea gardens in Dooars have embarked on a gate demonstration from April 25-27 on issues pertaining to implementation of Minimum Wages Act 1948 in the Tea Gardens of West Bengal.

The workers under the banner of 'Joint Forum' have also been demanding a payment of the workers' monetized value of foodgrains and bring normalcy in closed and abandoned tea gardens. Jia-ur-Alam, convener of Joint Forum, said that the employers were not submitting their views over the minimum wage in writing to the government for the past two-and-a-half years. "As soon as they do that, we will stop protesting," he said.

"These agitations shall lead to more losses for all stake holders in the industry as it seems difficult to capitalize on the second flush which has just started," said a release issued by Dooars Branch of Indian Tea Association.