

# Assam to Establish High Schools in Each Tea Estates

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In order to tackle the school drop-out rates and improve the education scenario of the tea-garden areas, Assam government is planning to build 200 schools.

While launching Mobile Medical Units for 320 Assam tea gardens, Health and Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, “Tea garden managements in the state are not comfortable with providing education and health to its workers and their children. In this regard, we have taken an important decision to set up one high school in each tea garden.”

Sarma also added that for the past three months, the education department has been trying hard to acquire land. “These tea garden managements are just not providing us the land. The land is ours. We have given it to them on lease. Now they are not giving us just one acre of land to set up a high school.”

Further speaking on the same programme, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda mentioned that the large working labourer populations in the tea gardens are yet to get health care facilities, which results to high Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) among pregnant women.

Nadda noted that for addressing this concern, the MMUs have been launched to provide healthcare in interior tea gardens, “On Tuesday, 80 MMUs were launched as part of first phase will cover 320 tea gardens of the state, with one MMU to cover four each, halting there for seven days at a stretch to attend to the patients. After seven days the particular MMU would move to the next tea garden. Completing the cycle of nearly a month, the MMU would return to the first village and begin its operation.

Nadda further informed that depending upon the performance of these MMUs, more such units would be added in the coming days which would bring down the operational gap from one month to fifteen days.