

# Govt defers tea wage payment in Dooars

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**Alipurduar:** The Bengal labour department has deferred the payment of dues to workers of 29 tea gardens in the Dooars.

The disbursement process was supposed to start from Monday. While officials of the department have cited technical glitches, representatives of tea trade unions have expressed anguish and blamed the department for the delay.

“We want to ensure that all those who would be paid a portion of their old dues as per the directions of the Supreme Court get the actual amount and there is no error in the calculation of claims. For this purpose, we need to have a proper verification so that no dispute arises during disbursement. There are some pending tasks and last-minute glitches which is why we postponed the process,” said Pashupati Ghosh, additional labour commissioner of the state.

He iterated that the state was keen on clearing the dues and abide by the apex court’s directive. In total, Rs 15 crore will be paid to 34,000-odd workers living in 29 gardens.

Earlier, the department had announced that partial payment of dues by the state would commence on June 11 in Jalpaiguri district and on

