## Staff of 242 tea gardens yet to receive wages

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JALPAIGURI/KOLKATA: Trouble brewing in tea gardens of north Bengal over non-payment of wages ignited protests across the belt on Wednesday and led to a national highway being blocked for seven hours, sending an ominous warning of the situation spiraling out of control. Till now, workers of 242 of the 284 gardens are yet to get wages.

With emergency meetings convened on Wednesday by the administration — both at Nabanna and Jalpaiguri — to broker a solution in the presence of tea industry representatives ending in a stalemate, the prognosis is grim. The state's earlier bid to route the payment through the DM's office has fallen through with RBI refusing to disburse money through this