

Financial Assistance to West Bengal out of the Loans received from International Development Association

8517. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of West Bengal is not included in the list of beneficiaries of the recent loan of \$93 million to India by the International Development Association, an affiliate body of the World Bank;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to give assistance out of the aforesaid loan amount to the State of West Bengal for development work?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) to (c). Two Credits were approved by the Board of Directors of the International Development Association (IDA). One of US Dollar 8 million, is meant for development of agricultural wholesale markets in Mysore State. The other, of US Dollars 85 millions, will be utilised for expansion of power transmission programmes of certain State Electricity Boards, which do not include West Bengal. The West Bengal State Electricity Board is already one of the beneficiaries of an IDA Credit for India's Second Power Transmission Project given in May 1971. Proposals for IDA Credits for Urban Development and Agricultural markets development projects in West Bengal are separately under consideration.

Demand by Darjeeling Tea Planters Association for the Intervention of Tea Trading Corporation in the Auction

8518. SHRI R. N. BARMAN:

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Darjeeling Tea Planters Association has demanded intervention by Tea Trading Corporation in the auction;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Number of Tea Estates and actual Acreage under Tea Plantation

8519. SHRI R. N. BARMAN:

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) the number of Tea Estates and acreage under the application, State-wise, in Eastern India;

(b) whether the Tea Board during the last five years made any survey about economic condition of Tea Estates or took up any specific scheme for improving the lot of small Tea Estates in this region;

(c) whether Chairman or other Senior Officials concerned with the development of Tea Estates visited various places in the last three years and if so, the total expenditure incurred on their visits; and

(d) whether any representative of small tea growers and small tea estates has been appointed as a member of Tea Board during the last 10 years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(**PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA**):

(a) The number of Tea Estates with area under Tea Plantation (State wise) in Eastern India is as under:—

State	No. of Estates	Area under Tea Plantation (Hectares)
Assam	750	182,324.78
West Bengal	294	88,498.50
Tripura	54	5,444.45
U. P.	31	1,817.93
Bihar	3	459.80

(b) No survey was undertaken by the Tea Board on the Economic Conditions of the Tea Estates. In addition to the Tea Machinery Hire Purchase Scheme and the Plantation Finance Scheme which were available to all Sections of the Tea Industry big and small since the early sixties, a new Scheme viz., Replantation Subsidy Scheme was introduced in October, 1968 to assist the industry in undertaking replanting of overaged tea areas. This Scheme provided subsidy to be paid to any garden big or small that desired to replant existing tea areas.

(c) During the last 3 years several visits were paid by officials of Tea Board to various tea areas in Assam and West Bengal like Tezpur, Jorhat, Cachar, Dibrughah, Dooars and Darjeeling in Eastern India.

Total expenditure incurred on these visits during the last three years was as follows:—

Year	Expenditure
1970-71	Rs. 662.60
1971-72	Rs. 5266.20
1972-73	Rs. 4309.65

(d) Interest of small growers continues to be represented by two members on the Tea Board reconstituted in 1966, 1969 and 1972.

Interest shown by East European Countries to have deals with Private Sector Traders, Industrialists and other Commercial Concerns

8520. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the East-European Communist countries have shown interests in having trade deals with private sector traders, industrialists and other commercial concerns in India;

(b) if so, the number of such negotiations already (i) finalised during last year (ii) and proposed to be finalised and (iii) under way;

(c) the names of the trade, industrial or commercial concerns in India with which the communist countries of Europe had trade deals or propose to have such deals;

(d) the nature of the trade deals and monetary amounts involved therein;

(e) whether such trade deals are done directly by the communist countries or channelised through Government agencies; and