

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3820
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2002
ENTRY OF CHURCH IN TEA BUSINESS
BODAKUNTI VENKATESHWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

:

- (a) whether in order to meet its mission service the Church are entering into tea business in North East States of the country;
- (b) whether the Church have indicated the sources from which they would make investment in the tea industry; and
- (c) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (c) : One tea garden, namely Mornai Tea Estate, located in the Kokrajhar District of Assam, has been managed by the Trust Association of the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dhumka, Bihar since 1890. The garden has a grant area of 570.34 ha. out of which 410 ha. are under tea. Apart from this big garden, the following three small holdings have been registered by the Christian Missionaries with the Tea Board :

Name of Garden	Area registered with Tea Board	Year of Registration
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Baithabhangga (GELC) Mini T.P Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church District Sonitpur, Assam	4.06 hectares	1977
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Barkutia Tea Catholic Church, Borgang District Sonitpur, Assam	2.24 hectares	2000
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John Paul Chaah Bagicha Catholic Mission, Salona District Nagaon, Assam	3.11 hectares	2001
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Although the source of funds for the investment in the tea industry are not required to be indicated while registering with the Tea Board, the Board will ensure henceforth disclosure of such information to the Tea Board.