

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6179  
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012  
DAMAGE TO TEA PLANTATION  
Haque Shri Sk. Saidul

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

- (a) whether the tea plantations in certain areas of West Bengal have been damaged due to the natural calamities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance/special package as demands by the small tea growers who have their plantations in those areas including West Dinajpur; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Madam. In the first week of April, 2012, a severe cyclonic hailstorm hit the Chopra Block of Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal causing some damage to the tea bushes and shade trees, resulting in defoliation. The affected bushes have become unfit for cropping for the next three months.

(c) & (d) : The Government is seized of the matter and the Tea Board has called for a report from its field office as well as from the Tea Research Association on the details of the extent of damage and the area affected. Support will be given to the affected small growers under the existing schemes of the Tea Board for providing subsidy for pruning of bushes, technical know-how for restoring bushes to vigour and working capital loan/revolving corpus for Self Help Groups.