

Title: Need to direct the Tea Board to undertake extensive tea plantation in Banspal Block of Keonjhar district, Orissa.- Laid.

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (KEONJHAR) : A serious situation has arisen in the Banspal area of Orissa due to the closure of the tea garden there. A tea garden started at an investment of three crores at Tarmakant area in that block finally closed down after it fell sick for a few months. The tea garden was started in that area as per the Government's proposal to encourage tea plantation in the non-traditional area. The tea produced in that area was very popular and was mostly exported and it was famous as Tarmakant tea. As many as 500 tribal workers who are earning their daily bread in that tea garden have been thrown out of employment. This has happened at a time when the Tea Board is promoting tea plantation under its 'New Area Development Scheme'. In the interest of the tea industry and the workers depending on tea garden, it is necessary to take over the tea garden by the Government keeping in view the climatic condition and scope for increasing areas under tea plantation.

I, urge upon the Government of India to direct the Tea Board to undertake extensive tea plantation in the Banspal Block in Keonjhar district without further delay with a view to generate employment in that area.