

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2285
ANSWERED ON 19/12/2025

TAKING OVER OF TEA GARDENS IN DOOARS REGION

2285. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Government decided to take over seven tea gardens in the Dooars region of the State of West Bengal way back in 2016;
- (b) whether the decision has been implemented;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d) Government had vide Gazette Notification No. S.O. 260(E) dated 28 January, 2016 under Section 16E of the Tea Act, 1953 authorized Tea Board to take steps to take over the management control of seven tea gardens viz. Birpara Tea Estate, Garganda Tea Estate, Lankapara Tea Estate, Tulsipara Tea Estate, Hantapara Tea Estate and Dumchipara Tea Estate owned by M/s Duncans Industries Ltd. and Demdima Tea Estate owned by M/s Santipara Tea Company Private Ltd., a sister concern of M/s Duncans Industries Ltd. The Tea Board, accordingly, invited Expression of Interest from interested tea companies for handing over the management control of the seven tea gardens. Immediately thereafter, M/s Duncans Industries Ltd. and M/s Santipara Tea Company Private Ltd. petitioned the High Court challenging the notification, which was followed by an appeal to the said High Court by the two companies.

The Court in its Order dated 20th September, 2016 had directed, as an interim arrangement, that the management of the tea gardens should be taken over by the two companies. Subsequently, the companies had made arrangements for managing of the tea gardens viz. Birpara, Garganda, Lankapara, Tulsipara, Hantapara, Dumchipara with M/s Merico Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd. and Demdima Tea Estate with Demdima Tea Company Pvt. Ltd. These tea gardens, except Lankapara, were reopened during 2016-2018.

Insolvency Resolution Proceedings were initiated against M/s Duncans Industries Limited vide National Company Law Tribunal's Order dated 5.3.2020. The control of M/s Duncans Industries Ltd. has been with the Insolvency Resolution Professional appointed by the NCLT as part of the Insolvency Proceedings.
