

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding revival of Cinchona plantations in Darjeeling and Kalimpong-laid.

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): The history of Cinchona Plantations in Darjeeling and Kalimpong is as old as the history of tea plantation in the region.

At the heights of its operations, the Cinchona Plantations were spread over an area of 26000 acres, ran 4 factories, and provided employment to around 7000 people.

The life saving Anti-Malaria drug Quinine was manufactured here and supplied across the world. Other plants Ipecach, Cardamom, Rubber, Mulberry, Turmeric, Mandarin Orange etc were also planted in these gardens.

However, due to the continued apathy, and neglect, these plantations are today struggling for their own existence. Despite immense potential and need for medicinal plants, Cinchona plantations are dying and the livelihood of thousands of workers are at stake.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Ayush Minister to kindly help rejuvenate the Cinchona plantations by taking them under the National Medicinal Plants Board and using the available land and manpower towards growing plants that will benefit the entire nation.