

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1695
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004
CRUMBLING PLANTATION INDUSTRY
Fernandes Shri George

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

- (a) whether the severe crisis in the plantation industry for the last 6 years has caused closure of plantation industry in Karnataka, Kerala and Assam due to accumulation of debt in the Coffee and Tea Industry;
- (b) whether Governments in these States have expressed fear that the displaced workers are likely to join the Naxalite and other extremist movements as a result thereof;
- (c) whether Government propose to create a comprehensive package for stabilization of constituents of plantation industry as promised by the Ministers on the request of the plantation growers organization to save the industry and the workers; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

- (a) Due to fall in the prices of tea and coffee over the last five years, the financial health of the tea plantations and coffee growers has suffered resulting in accumulation of debt and other credit related problems.
- (b) As per the available information, no such fear has been reported by the concerned State Governments.
- (c) The Government is considering a relief package for coffee sector to solve the credit related problems of the coffee industry- Tea Board has proposed a programme for replantation and rejuvenation of the old tea bushes.
- (d) Does not arise.