

Preface

The Indian tea plantation structure is highly labour intensive. Entrepreneurship is an integral thing in this highly specialised commercial enterprise. The research dissertation is an analysis of the rise and fall of the Bengali Entrepreneurship of the tea plantation industry in both pre – independent and post – independent Bengal. The history of the tea industry India is a popular area of research. It has been adequately dealt with by several competent researchers but the history of the Bengali entrepreneurship has yet to be written on a comprehensive scale. Dr. Sibsankar Mukherjee and Professor Ranajit Dasgupta have taken up the task with massive enthusiasm and competent scholarships. But a full length history of the Bengali Entrepreneurship is yet to be written. There is no book – length account pertaining to the Bengali tea industrialists of the Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts. It is that historiographical gap that this study endeavours to fill. This study, however, is a narrative account of the Bengali Entrepreneurship focussing different aspects.

In course of my research work many individuals and institutions have contributed me to a large extent. I owe a profound debt of gratitude to Dr. Shyamal Ch. Guha Roy, my supervisor, for his tireless support, encouragement and his invaluable scholarly suggestions at all stages of my work. I am also grateful to Professor Ananda Gopal Ghosh, my co - supervisor who has benefitted me very much by discussing various flakes of the Bengali Entrepreneurship of the period under reviewed. His advice helped me indeed in enriching my knowledge. Over the years I have had the privilege of being taught by Professor late Jasobanta Kar, Professor Mandira Bhattacharya, Professor Chanda Chakrabarty, Professor Ichamuddin Sarkar, Dr. Anita Bagchi, and Dr. Bijay Kumar Sarkar. Many of the ideas developed in the thesis were picked up in their classrooms. More recently I have also benefited immensely from Dr. Dahlia Bhattacharya, Sri Sudash Lama, Sri Sankar Das and Sri Barun Roy. I am grateful to all of them. I have enriched my ideas on the subject by discussing with Dr. Debabrata Mitra, Dept. of Management, University of North Bengal; S.N. Chattarjee, Former Secretary of Dooars Branch Indian Tea Association; P.K. Bhattacharya, Secretary of Dooars Branch Indian Tea Association; Sanjay Bagchi, Deputy Secretary of Dooars Branch Indian Tea Association; Ranen Dutta, Former Secretary of Darjeeling Branch Indian Tea Association; Uday Bhanu Das,

Secretary of Terai Indian Planters' Association; Ram Avatar Sharma, Senior Manager of Mahua Tea Estate. The staffs of Indian Tea Planters Association also helped me a lot to see necessary books and documents of their rich library. Trade union leader late Biren Bose and Murarai Mitra helped me in writing the unexplored history of the tea gardens of the Terai region.

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