

CHAPTER VIII

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH TEA INDUSTRY

INTRODUCTION

It has been deduced from the previous chapters that the study area is one of the most backward areas despite its rich natural resources and favourable physical, climatic and geographical conditions which favour tea cultivation. Plantation work is the main occupation of the people. But the economic condition of the people has remained precarious. It is real the man that can not control over the nature. During the past 70 year's history it is revealed that floods and droughts are the main natural calamity, and these affect the annual tea production on that very year of occurrences. On the other hand, export of Indian tea to the foreign markets has been reduced significantly during the last few years. As a result the tea planters are now in deep economic trouble.

Environmental pollution is a colloquial term which is used to mean the pollution in or around the residential area. Now-a-days the problem is world wide and so intense that it can destroy the carefully build up human society vis-a-vis tea industry near future. In this context four major problems are recognised in the study area.

- (i) Physical problems
- (ii) Socio economic problems
- (iii) Management problems
- (iv) Other socio-cultural problems

In this chapter these problems are analysed for selecting suitable developmental strategies for the area in general and the people related in tea industry in particular.

8.1. PHYSICAL PROBLEMS

Physical problems are the most important hindrance in the economic development of a region, because physical factors are responsible for the concentration of population and their activities are greatly controlled by the

nature of land, climatic phenomena and soil composition. Various physical factors are mainly responsible for the quality of tea in a garden. The productivity also depends upon the several phenomena. The main ecological constrains for lowering the quality of tea being discussed in the following paragraphs.

Uneven distribution of rainfall : It is seen that the study area enjoys a sub tropical type of climate where rainfall during monsoons from July to September is heavy (Fig. 1.6) and dry during the other months of the year. During the rainy months floods occur whereas the rest of the year, rainfall is less. This phenomena not only effects the surface run off but also tea cultivation. It also bring natural hazards like floods in the tea gardens.

8.1.1. Floods

Floods exceptionally high precipitation during the monsoon period along the lesser Himalayas causes a very sharp increase in the discharge rate of rivers in the area. The heavy sediment loads brought down by the rivers from the hills get deposited on the river bed once they debouch into the plain causing serious shallowing of the river beds consequently they became incapable to carry sudden increased discharge during monsoon. This cause bank overflow and extensive flooding of wide areas leading to serious damage of life and property. River migration in the plain is also prevalent during such high discharge period when the existing channel is suddenly abandoned by the river and starts flowing through an old aggraded course (Fig.1.7).

Shifting of rivers and serious bank migration and bank erosion are major problems in the Jaldhaka, Diana river system due to probable tectonic activities. Floods of 1993 have caused havoc in various parts of Jalpaiguri district including the town of Alipurduar. Few tea garden in Banarhat police station also had been affected. Road and rail communications in the district had been disrupted due to major breaches on the National highways and other link roads.

The main concrete bridge on the approach road to Kalabari tea garden had been destroyed cutting off vehicular link between Kalabari tea garden and the adjoining village of Banarhat P.S. Another bridge inside Kalabari had also collapsed. On successive days from 18.07.93. Diana which was in spate as a result of heavy rain some of the sauses on the main protection bundh on the river washed away and flooded Kalabari tea garden's labour lines as well as the villages nearby. One of the other sauses has also been eroded and it is

apprehended that if the bandh gives in at this point, the Diana river might change course and the main volume of water may flow through the tea estate itself damaging its factory, tea plantation, and the labour lines and flooding the villages. The tea estate however remained cut off though the rations for the workers could be brought in from Natua side.

The Reti river has eroded the bundh near premnagar in Katalguri Tea Estate. Though water in Reti has gone down, it is apprehended that if there one further heavy rainfall and the river is in spate again, it will cause a breach in the bundh at this point and flood the whole of Katalguri Tea Estate. At this time the management has started some temporary restoration work with sand bags but permanent repair work needs to be undertaken by the Irrigation Deptt which maintains the bundh.

The Umesh Canal which carries all the surface water from Chamchi area and flows through Katalguri Tea Garden, New Dooars Tea Garden, Rheabari Tea Garden, Karbala Tea Garden, Banarhat Tea Garden and the Banarhat Bazar was filled up on the night of 20.07.93 and spilled over causing temporary flooding in some of the labour lines in the tea estate and also part of the Banarhat town. The canal is protected by a bundh in Katalguri Tea Estate but a portion of bundh was breached by spending current due to heavy rain and flooded the labour lines and plantation of the said gardens.

The Diana Tea Estate was completely flooded by the Diana river and has been under water for a number of days. It was mentioned earlier that the devastating flood of 1968 destroyed many tea gardens of Jalpaiguri district. In the study area, Laksmikanta is one of them. The diluvial devastation in 1968 destroyed more than 90% of the total tea area of this garden. The river Jaldhaka and Dudia deposited the transported washed material creating an artificial embankment round the tea garden. The garden including factory was closed. Though the tea garden was reopened from 1977 but the factory is still untouched and not systematically managed.

Erosion of land has created a great problem which has been intensified further matter 1993 flood. Heavy rains occur in the areas in the rainy season and it may continue for days together. In a waterlogged soil, the bushes are deprived from Nitrogen (Plate-8.1) which is the main food for plants growth and healthy root systems. Considerable areas in the Dooars are water logged in rainy season due to heavy and concentrated rains. Run off from hillsides as

well as underground water in some cases with no proper outlet for draining water are the main factors causing such water logging. In Nagrakata police station, most of the tea gardens are waterlogging due to underground seepage.

8.1.2. Drought

Drought is another factor for quality of tea. Though drought is not a common feature in this area but occurs in certain years. It is noticed that drought is common in every next year of flood. Bushes are severely affected due to drought. After the devastating flood in 1993, the only industry of North Bengal is now facing a deep trouble due to intense drought. During the past 70 years history such low amount of rain between January and April '94 had never been recorded. Naturally annual growth was reduced. About 18% of total annual tea production occurs between January and April. Already 9% less production has occurred in Dooars. On the other hand, export of Indian tea to the foreign market has been reduced significantly. As a result the tea industry became is deep economic trouble(Plate-8.2)

8.1.3. Soil erosion

Soil erosion is another menace in this area. The entire Dooars economy solely depends on the top soil as it contains most of the food for growth and nutrition of plants. The soil erosion is a problem in the tea gardens which are located in the Nagrakata P.S. Bank erosion and bank failure have been seen to aggravate during post monsoon period when the rivers become effluent and ground water feeds the rivers by scooping matrix. Erosion of land has created a great problem which has been intensified further after 1993 flood. Dolomite mining in the neighbouring country Bhutan is now-a-days an important news. Experts think that due to such dolomite mining in Bhutan and adjoining tea garden of India are under going land erosion. Land area of Jiti, Chengmari Tea Estates of Nagrakata police station and Chamurhi, Choonabhati, Rheabari Tea gardens of Banarhat police station are facing such erosion besides being engulfed by rivers, creating double attack of problems. Because the nature of hilly rivers like Reti, Kurti, Gathia. Jiti is to carry dolomite dust. Deposition of these dolomite dust in the tea garden area increases the pH and reduced the fertility of land. To what extent the dolomite dust causes damage to the tea can be best exemplified by Chammuchi tea garden. Already 1/3rd of Chamurchi tea garden have been affected due to this dolomite mixed dust liberated from the Penden cement factory. The river Reti is flowing by the side of this Penden



Plate 8.1 Helopeltis affected Bush.



Plate 8.2 Drought affected Bush.

cement factory. As a result during every rainy season dolomite mixed dusts are deposited in the Chammchi Tea Garden, being carried by this Reti river. This, erosion bring with it, the co-related problem of siltation. The amount of siltation is 50% of the total load picked by erosional process.

8.1.4. Deforestation

The area possess full of natural forest resources. Bi-odiversity of this forest is of great significance. But now-a-days deforestation become a severe problem of the region. Our earth supports about 5 to 10 million species of plants and animals which have been the result of 3 billion years of evolution involving mutation, recombination and natural selection. Changing environments like ice age followed by warm periods exerted severe selection pressure responsible for the evolution of new species and also extinction of other. The present day life probably constitutes about 1% of the total species that has existed on this planet so far. Since 10,000 years, human beings assumed a dominant role on this planet, in the earlier stages he worshipped nature, but as soon as he started understanding the nature he began exploiting the natural resources resulting in progressive deterioration of the environment. By the end of this century it is supposed that one million species out of 50 million species will be eliminated. It is further calculated that at least 10% of the living species are already threatened. Thus there is an ecological crisis threatening the whole system (Khoshoo 1986). For which environmental scientists all over the world are profoundly concerned over main abuse of nature in the name of progress. They warn that if the abuse of nature persists the biological rhythm on the earth would be irreversibly upset and man himself might face a long drawn process of extinction (Negi, 1980).

The consequences of deforestation comes about through increased erosion and declining water table which is associated by reduction in atmospheric humidity and cloud cover, increased heat deflectivity and lowering of rainfall. Forests recycle moisture back into their immediate atmosphere by transpiration where it again falls as rain. If the forest are removed, this natural cycle is broken and destroyed the habitat of unique and endangered birds and animals of the area. It is observed that the entire complex of interdependent forest community has disappeared from the area showing signs of serious ecological crisis as indicated in the bi-ogeographical and environmental mapping in the Himalayan grass lands also perform the same function to a lesser degree with a smaller amount of moisture (South, 1970). Grass and forests, help in the formation and



*Plate 8.3 Deforestation in Maraghat
Tea Estate.*

composition of soils by adding humus and influencing other soil forming factors such as temperature and rainfall. Soil erosion is also directly related with the coverage.

There is little doubt that the environment throughout the area has been rendered barren (Except tea plantation) and inhospitable by excessive pressure from the axes, it is going on at increasing rate, as the ignorant people believe that their forests are unlimited. Side by side the establishment of tea plantation, is exerting a tremendous pressure on the destruction of environment. (Plate-8.3) The wild animals like leopards, Tigers and Elephant were staying in that forest very peacefully. But with the depletion of forest, the animals came into the locality and destroyed many human life. The tea gardens and forests have existed as a part of the ecosystem in North Bengal for a very long time. This is the largest and most organised industry operating in North Bengal and as such, this industry has a role to play in environmental conservation. Wild life like elephant and leopard being a component of this ecosystem. It is explained that this organised industry has a role to play in conserving these resources by positive collaboration with forest department in reducing the areas and the intensity of man animal conflict situation in this region.

8.2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

The necessity for suitable legislation on plantation was felt with a view to formulating a social policy towards a vast labour population seeking to ameliorate their living and working condition.

Economic problems arise in the tea plantation due to low rate of wage structure and high rate of population growth. The following are some of the socio-economic problems of the tea garden worker. (i) Low rate of literacy (ii) Limited occupation pattern (iii) Paucity of different amenities. (iv) Social customs and superstitions (v) Other social disorders.

8.2.1. Low rate of Literacy

The study area depicts totally a rural characteristics where literacy rate is much below the district, state and national level. The poor economic condition of the people in the area governs the literacy rates. People send their words for child labour rather than to schools due to their low economy. More over the stratification in the work organisation in the tea plantation was such that it was difficult for educated tribal youth to get employment in the white colour categories

as vacancies here were reserved for the children of those already in these categories. They naturally did not feel encouraged to take higher education. Besides trade unions did not show sufficient interest on this aspect. They did not encourage workers to send their children to the schools. Demand for development of schools was included in the charter of demands, but no union bothered to press for it during the conciliations and they did not give any special effort to encourage the spread of education.

Due to illiteracy the workers even could not write answers to the charge sheets. Low education made difficult for them to understand the labour laws. Ultimately they became more and more dependable on the outside leaders. Low education was also a barrier to grow awareness among the workers. They could not mix up properly with the neighbouring (outside the tea garden) societies. Mixing with the neighbouring societies might help to exchange views.

In this respect, the management had always one edge over the workers. The workers felt hesitated while talking with the management regarding any bargaining. As it was mentioned earlier that the workers faced difficulties in understanding the labour laws and they themselves could not write the answers of these charge sheets all these made them more submissive to the management. The management took this advantages. The managements apathy to the development of education among the workers and on the other hand union less interest about it, ultimately hampered the growth of level of education.

8.2.2. Limited Occupational Pattern

One of the basic characteristic of the tea gardens is the limited occupational pattern which indicates the degree of development (Boserup, 1970). The study area has more than 92 percent of her working population engaged in primary occupation that is plantation work. In a developed economy, the proportion of population in agriculture is less than the proportion of population engaged in secondary and tertiary occupation.

8.2.3. Paucity of different amenities

8.2.3. (i) Health

Though health to all by 2000 A.D. is the motto of health department in Jalpaiguri district, the area faces acute shortage of health facilities. From the field survey it is revealed that distribution of health services, tea garden wise gives an uneven

distributions. Though the big Agency house tea gardens give the better health facilities to the worker, the medium and small tea gardens workers yet not getting better health facilities. The medicine, Doctor's and nurses are inadequate. Most of the garden have primary health facilities. So most of the gardens workers have to go long distance (Jalpaiguri) to take proper medical care. Some times this results in the death of patient before reaching the care unit.

8.2.3. (ii) Low transport and communication system

Field study reveals that the major portion of the study area has a poor transport and communication net work because of the physical constrains and the presence of tea plantation. only two or three roads is founds in this area (Fig. 6) It is further noticed that all the surveyed tea gardens are not fully connected with the network of post and tele communication.

8.2.3. (iii) Poor marketing facilities

There are only four daily market places for total 39 tea gardens. These markets are located far off from most of the tea gardens. Because of poor communication with these markets, the workers are found to buy their basic needs from the traders at a very high price. Most of the time due to ignorance and illiteracy workers are cheated and not get their basic needs from a reasonable price. There are other factors like money lender. Union leader forced them to buy their goods from a particular traders. It has been seen that lower order retail services like vegetables and other grocery goods are not available every day. Thought it is available in the market day but these items become expensive in lower order retail service centre, due to high transportation cost.

8.2.3. (iv) Poor Electricity and Water supply

Though the plantation labour act has a clause an adequate supply of water shall be made available in every labour line at all times. But most of the tea gardens have not those facilities (Plate-6A). Even an adequate supply of drinking water shall not be made available in every plantation at work sites, during working hours.

Electricity is also absent most of the labourers quarters. They live at 'Kuchha' house with thatched roof (Plate-61). Sometimes wild animals are destroyed their living apartments, including life.

8.2.3.(v) Social customs and Superstition

The workers were divided into different religions such as Hindu, Christian, Buddhists, Islam etc. The traditional religion of the tribal workers was Samsar. It is a religion based on animistic beliefs (Bhadra, 1981). They believe that all selected physical phenomena inanimate as well as animate have an indwelling personalized spiritual being (such as soul) which is at least potentially separable from the physical object with which it is associated. But while living in an area for years which is surrounded by Hindu people some Hindu rituals and religious practices crept among the tribals; most of these tribal workers (non-Christian tribals) claimed themselves as Hindus. Besides the above reason the other reason perhaps was to elevate their status as they had a concept that Hindu religion was superior to their traditional religion.

There are peculiar practices of superstition among the tribal community. They believe that if in any way an expecting mother is forced to die by her wholly man (Janguru or Tantrika), the baby in the mother's womb will become a Ghost. That ghost will protect the community from all evils. That ghost is named as churul. Despite the presence of modern management these practices are going on. Most of the tribal people believe the 'Dahin' or Kori if any old or mid-age old lady has some property and she has no legal world, then she becomes Dahin by some sardars and sometimes union leaders also.

The whole planted outlay of the garden is made in such a way that the labourers may guard the area. They are to dwell in the border area while the quarters of the managements and other officials are placed in a very protected area. Labourers are not allowed to dwell nearer the factories. So that they can not do any harm to the factory during a period of labour agitation. As the labourers dwell in the border area they are to face all problems coming from the forest like the attack of the wild animals like leopards, elephant, etc.

Each family is provided a single room and the whole family having several units are to sleep within the same room. It obviously creates some social disorder. This problem tells upon the in-family understanding.

In spite of organized trade union for the last 40 years the money wage rate of a tea garden worker is less than that of an agricultural labourer in north-east India. Since the beginning of tripartite wage agreement it has been found that the employers actually accepted less than half of the wage rate demanded by the employee. The surplus population in tea gardens becomes the main

obstacles for the trade unions in wage negotiation. Due to backwardness of the areas, no other employment opportunity is generated in the vicinity of the tea gardens. Education among the children of the workers also did not expand. As such they are depended upon the employment of tea industry generation after generation. This situation gave wide scope to the employers to employ more number of casual workers and child workers in the work structure. In tea gardens most of the casual workers are relatives to the permanent workers. Permanent workers are beneficial as their family income increases. Thus when the trade unions demand for higher rate of wages for the workers, the employers give threat to reduce the number of casual workers. The reduction of casual workers will directly affected the permanent labour force as their family income will reduce.

8.3. MANAGEMENT PROBLEM

Tea industry was started in 1874 in this region. About 10 lakhs of workers are directly related to the tea industry in North Bengal and about 45 lakhs of such workers are indirectly dependent upon it. Though India is still first in tea production in the world and West Bengal is in the second position in the country, but it has been suffered various management problems. These are (i) Land management problems (ii) Wage pattern vis-a-vis management problem (iii) Problems in world trade and marketing. (iv) Administrative problems.

8.3.1. Land management problems

Several tea estates have come up on disputed land throughout the North Bengal. These gardens were set up in 1988-89, when tea prices were abnormally high, in the districts of Uttar Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and Koch behar.

Tempted by the lucrative yield, a number of speculators purchased land in these districts on behalf on reputed tea companies, many of them based in Calcutta. This buying and selling of land has turned out to be irregular in many case as both parties had taken advantage of lega loopholes.

The land that was purchased by the tea magnates included prohibited areas covered by the command zones of the multi-purpose Tista Barrage. Project, forests, agricultural land under barga cultivation, land belonging to the Relief and Rehabilitation department, and areas meant for pineapple cultivation.

Over the past five years, both political parties and cultivators had often protested against this illegal land transactions. They allege that the administration in these four districts as well as the panchayats were aware of the deals.

In December 1990, Mr. Kanu Sanyal, the Naxalite leader and the working president of West Bengal Tea Garden Labour Union, along with his associates had submitted a memorandum to the then Divisional Commissioner of North Bengal, Miss Kalyani Choudhury, urging her to stop the unauthorized growth of tea gardens in prohibited areas. They had warned of an agrarian movement by the cultivators in these districts. A few months before this memorandum was submitted, the West Bengal Government had drawn up guidelines for the setting of new tea plantations in North Bengal. These were incorporated in a resolution which was sent to the Divisional Commissioner and all the District Magistrates in North Bengal. Directives were issued to deal with the problem of land-grabbing in the prohibited areas.

The Government resolution stated that all proposals for setting up new tea plantations should be examined by the District-Level Committee, comprising the Collector, the Sabhadhipati of the Zilla Parishad and District Land Revenue Officer. The recommendation of the committee would have to be examined by the Divisional Commissioner and then sent to the Land and Land Revenue Department for the No Objection Certificate. According to the resolution, proposals for new tea gardens should be accompanied by details of either employment offers of subsistence allowance to the families that would be displaced following the extension of tea cultivation. The Government's proposals have remained on paper. Official sources said that it has not been possible to implement the resolution in the absence of penal provision. A seemingly helpless State Government simply looked on as the issue turned into a law and order problem. There have been frequent clashes between the cultivators and those who bought the land. In 1990, two farmers were killed in police firing at Huduvita in Siliguri subdivision.

Tea gardens mushroomed on unauthorized land over the past five years. According to official estimates, there are 105 such estates in Uttar Dinajpur, 80 in Jalpaiguri, 15 in Darjeeling and eight in Koch Bihar districts. They cover more than 12,000 hec. in Uttar Dinajpur, 6,400 hec. each in Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling and 2,00 hec. in Koch Bihar. This includes both prohibited areas and vested land. These new estates employ more than 35,000 workers. Each worker gets between Rs. 17 and Rs. 20 a day. In a little over three years, the managements of these new gardens have started plucking the green leaves. In the absence of the manufacturing factories of their own, they are selling the leaves to the established gardens. They are yet to receive the No-objection Certificate from

the Government. And yet they started earning an income from their produce since last year.

Meanwhile, the restriction that was imposed by the Ministry of Defence prohibiting cultivation from the zero line of the border to a distance of 15 yards has been withdrawn. A State Government spokesman said that cultivation, including tea plantations, is now permissible from the international border fencing to the 'zero line'. Closing the unauthorized tea estates is a risky proposition in view of the large workforce dependent on them. A police force was sent to a Jalpaiguri tea garden a few months ago to take action against the illegal extension of cultivation. The force had to return because a clash would have resulted in casualties. The owners have invested crores on these estates with the hope that the Government would issue the No. Objection Certificate. But there has been no official response even after four years.

The issue was discussed at a meeting held on September 22 at the Jalpaiguri Zilla Parishad. It was attended by the District Magistrate, the Subhadhipati of the Jalpaiguri Zilla Parishad, the Secretary of Land Reforms, and other panchayat functionaries. The meeting authorized the Panchayat Samities meaning the Bon-O-Bhumi-Sanskar Sthayee Samity and Agricultural Sthayee Samity of the Panchayats, to examine the categories of land that had been acquired by these gardens in Jalpaiguri. They were asked to send a report on each garden along with their opinion on whether they deserve the No-Objection Certificate from the Government. The applications of the tea garden managements would be forwarded only on the basis of these report. The decision was somewhat contrary to what was decided in 1990 when only the District-Level Committee was authorized to process the new applications.

In India, presently, tea is produced is about 4 lakhs hectors land. In West Bengal, itself such land area for tea production is 1 lakhs 4 thousands hectors and in Dooars tea growing land is about 62 thousand hectors. These land area should be spread further. Here, again land problem has created a barrier for further progress in this direction, and this problem is seen specially in Dooars and Darjeeling. Now time has come to overcome this problem. A demand has been raised to increase the quote of tea growing land as per government rule.

8.3.2. Wage pattern vis-a-vis management problem

Analysing the trends of wages it has found that money wage rate of the workers of Dooars increased at a very slow rate. Between the period 1952 to

1997 the daily wage of a male worker increased by Rs. 29.50. It is 49 paise annually on an average. Money wage increased at same what faster rate only after 1977. Between the period 1952 and 1977, the daily wage of a male worker increased by 12 paise annually on an average. But the same was increased by 97 paise annually on an average, during the period 1977-1997. But during this period the consumer price Index (C.P.I) for plantation workers increased at a very faster rate. As a result the extra increment to money wage could not increase the real wage rate satisfactory.

In the planters side it is revealed that wages of the labourers have also been increased which have imposed on extra financial burden over the planters during last 2-3 years.

8.3.3. Problems in world trade and marketing

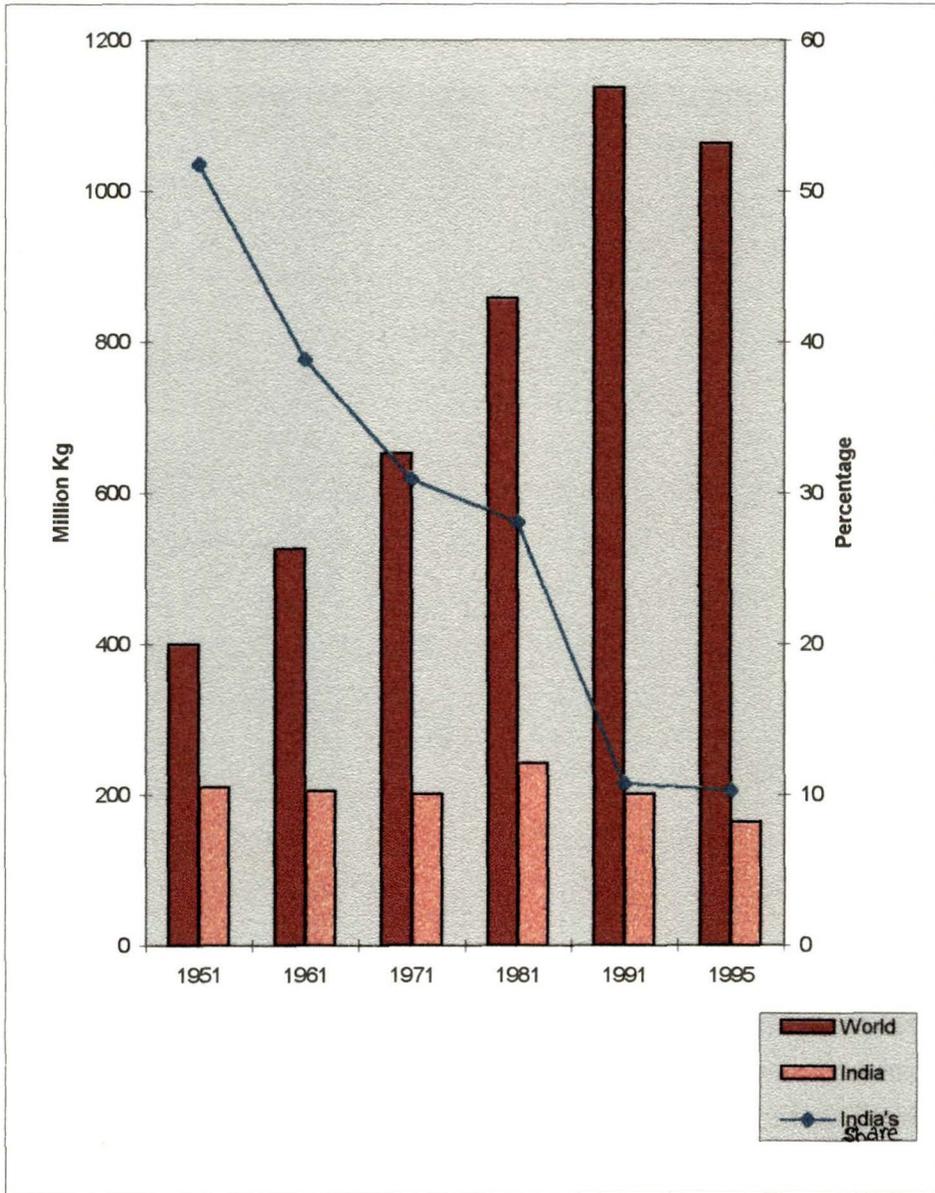
Export of Indian tea to the foreign market has been reduced significantly (Fig. 8.1) As a result the tea industry are now in deep economic trouble. Nearly 50 countries in the whole world produce tea. Once Indian tea had a monopoly in the tea markets in the world. But recently Srilanka, Keniya, Japan and China are also important participants in this respect. It is worth while to mention here that total annual production of tea by the 27 main tea producing countries is about 250 crores kg. India contributes about 75 crores kg. Of which 20 crores kg tea were used to be exported to the foreign markets. After the political collapse of Soviet Union, the export of Indian tea has faced a great blow. Though India is still first in tea production in the world, but it has been placed fourth in export of tea. (Fig. 8.2).

8.2.4. Administrative problems

The theft of tea leaves in the Dooars has risen alarmingly specially in tea gardens located in the Banarhat, Rajganj and Nagrakata areas (Statesman, 1999).

Offices of the DBITA and ITPA said that the culprits mostly local villagers are backed by traders, who have set up illegal centres in the region. These centres openly sell the plundered leaves, often for as low as Rs. 6 a kg. A person involved in the thefts can earn as much a Rs. 100 a day, according to information reaching the associations. Some of the tea planters submitted a memorandum to the local Superintendent of Police. The delegation was reportedly assured that all action would be taken to curb the thefts. But the

EXPORTS OF TEA FROM INDIA OF LAST SIX DECADES



TEA EXPORT INDEX OF INDIA

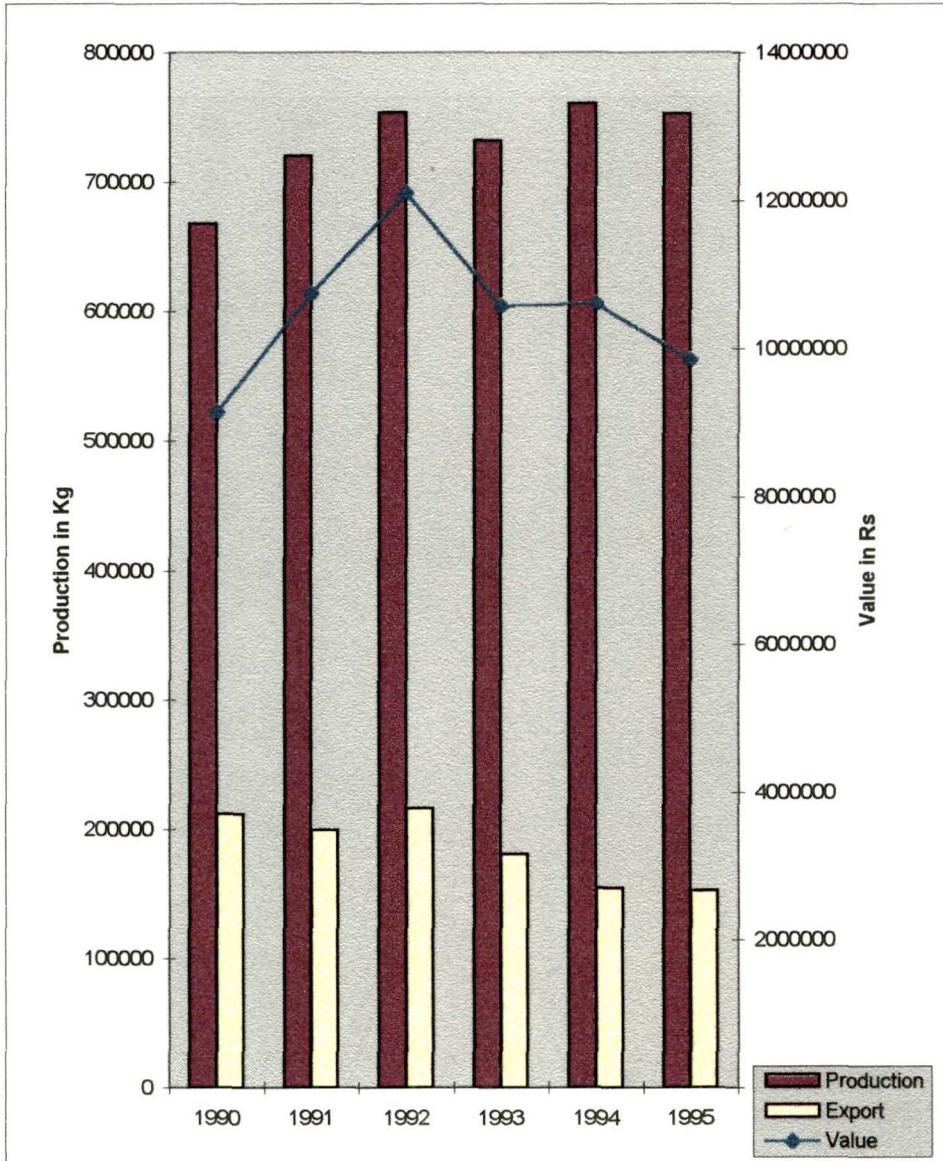


FIG 8.2

pilferage continues unabated, the officers informed. Not only tea leaves, but also other tea garden resources like irrigation pipes and motors are regularly stolen. Even the barbed wire fence put up to prevent cattle from straying in to the garden are also taken away. While plantation owners bear the brunt of the loss, employees too are affected. They lose out on their extra earnings, which are determined on the basis of the amount of tea leaves plucked.

Conclusion

It is real truth that we have no control over the nature. After the devastating flood in 1993 the only industry of North Bengal is now facing a deep trouble due to intense drought. During past 24 years history such less amount of rain between November 1998 to April 1999 has never been recorded. Naturally annual growth will be reduced. Already the loss in production incurred so far can be made good if the rain will held by April. Lack of rain has also posed a serious threat to standing crop yield. Most of the tea gardens of Banarhat police station are suffered from flood in rainy season. So soil erosion is noticed very high. Situations increased due to such erosion. Once Indian tea had a monopoly in the tea markets in the world. But recently several countries are participants in this respect. After the political collapse of Soviet Union, the export of India tea has faced a great blow. The condition of the workers social life is very poor. unhygienic, unhealthy. The medical facilities are very minimum. There are a little scope for education. The communication system are extremely poor. This was the condition of the worker in pre independence period. After independence the plantation managements intervene only to those issues which improve their profit. Hence they are unlikely to take any initiative to improve the status of workers unless they find there is a correlation between the status of worker and their productivity. To over come the problems of tea industry besides the planters the Government should come forward and measure should be taken to improve its problems. So it is essential its study the strategy for future development of tea industry in the next chapter.