GLOSSARY

1. Arkettis - The recruiting agents of temporary labourers for the tea plantations in the Dooars.

2. Butt — A variety of grass or reed generally grown in the high level areas of the Dooars.

3. Girmit — A tea garden labourer of the Dooars recruited by an agent through written agreements, which was distorted into the term girmit.

4. But — A temporary market place, generally held on weekly or bi-weekly.

5. Jampais — Specially cut channels to divert the flow of river water for irrigating tea bushes in the Dooars. This is necessary to divert the channels of swift flowing mountain streams through a tea garden.

6. Jet — The original stalk from which tea seedlings are prepared. The quality and production of tea depend much on the jet of the bush. For the betterment of tea, new jet is evolved.
through vegetative propagation. It is named after the place of origin of the bush from where the seedlings are propagated, viz., China jat, Assam jat.

7. Jhora - A riverlet or stream.

8. Mahajan - A person forwarding money to the labourers as loan against high rate of interest. A category of money-lender.


10. Pantabhat - Rice kept overnight with water.

11. Thana - Police Station or a small administrative unit.

12. Ulu - A variety of grass grown in the higher levels of Bengal Basin.