

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2429 (H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31st JULY, 2017

REVIVAL OF CLOSED TEA GARDENS

2429(H). DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN:

SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of closed tea gardens in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the tea producers have suffered great losses due to closure of tea gardens in Darjeeling and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for closing the tea gardens;
- (c) whether the decrease in tea production is likely to affect domestic market and exports and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes any scheme to provide subsidy or incentive to the tea producers to avoid loss and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has chalked out any programme to revive the closed tea gardens in the country including those in Darjeeling and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण) (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a): There are twelve tea gardens closed in the country at present. The details are given in the Annexure.
- (b) & (c) : Only one tea garden (Panighata) is closed in the Darjeeling district because of labour unrest due to non-payment of workers dues. Recent suspension of operations in the tea gardens in Darjeeling hills due to strike since 09.06.2017 onwards has resulted in loss of revenue due to stoppage of manufacture and sale of the high quality second flush teas that generate substantial export revenue.
- (d)&(e): Tea Board through the "Tea Development & Promotion Scheme" extends financial assistance to the tea estates in the country including Darjeeling for undertaking activities which inter-alia includes new planting, replanting, rejuvenation, pruning, irrigation, field mechanization etc. The Central Government is in active coordination with the concerned State Government to make the tea gardens functional.

ANNEXURE**State wise details of closed tea gardens in the country**

Sl. No.	Name of the T.E	State	Date of Closure	Current status
1	Dheklapara T.E	West Bengal	11.03.2006	The estate was officially liquidated by the Hon’ble Calcutta High Court. The garden was put up for e-auction by the Hon’ble Calcutta High Court (Official Liquidator) on 11 th May,2012, but no prospect buyer was available
2	Bundapani T.E		13.07.2013	The State Govt. has taken possession of the land of the closed Bundapani T.E on 15th Oct,2014, on expiry of lease of land.
3	Dharanipur T.E		19.10.2013	The State Govt. has taken possession of the land of the closed Dharanipur T.E on 18th Nov, 2014.
4	Redbank T.E		19.10.2013	The State Govt. has taken possession of the land of the closed Redbank T.E on 21st Nov,2014, on expiry of lease of land.
5	Surendranagar T.E		19.10.2013	The State Government has cancelled the Land Lease of Surendra Nagar T.E by an order dated 14/11/2014 and the Land has been taken over by the state Government on 13.01.2015
6	Madhu T.E		23.09.2014	As per un official information , the process of sale of the property is under process
7.	Panighata		10.10.2015	Labour unrest due to non-payment of workers dues etc.
8	Manabari		21.03.2016	Labour unrest due to non-payment of workers dues etc.
9.	Kumlai		15-11-2015	Labour unrest dueto non settlement of labour dues etc.
10.	M/s Peermade Tea Co. Ltd.- Peermade&Lonetree T.E.	Kerala	01.04.2016	Labour unrest dueto non settlement of labour dues etc. The Govt. of Kerala is in the process of reopening of the estate.
11.	M/s MMJ Plantations- Kottamala&Bonami T.E		23.12.2013/ 11.10.2014	The company has got a stay order from the Kerala High Court prohibiting action against the company presently under Tea Act.
12	Bonaccord		05.03.2015	Estate Management has abandoned the estate due to financial crisis. The name of this garden is included in the list since recently a communication has been received from the Govt. of Kerala.
Total 12 closed tea gardens				
