

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4869(H)
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th MARCH, 2018

CLOSED TEA GARDENS

4869(H). SHRI HARISH CHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI:

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

- whether many large tea gardens of the country are lying closed;
- if so, the details thereof along with the number of workers affected thereby, State-wise;
- whether the Government proposes to take over some closed tea gardens of the country; and
- if so, the details thereof along with the number of tea gardens revived/ operationalised during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. आर. चौधरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

- &(b): At present, there are twelve tea gardens closed in the country, nine in the State of West Bengal and three in the State of Kerala. The details regarding date of closure, number of workers affected and current status are given in **Annexure**.
- & (d): Central Government and Tea Board are in active coordination with the State Government concerned to make the gardens functional and if required, by transferring the lease of land to other interested entrepreneurs. The following closed tea gardens were re-opened and operationalised in the last three years and current year state wise :

State	Year			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Assam	Nil	1 (Rani Tea Estate)	Nil	Nil
West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 (Joybirpara Tea Estate)
Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

ANNEXURE**State wise details of 12 closed tea gardens in the country**

Sl. No.	Name of the Tea Estate	State	Date of Closure	No. of Workers		Current status
				Permanent	Temporary	
1	Dheklapara Tea Estate	West Bengal	11.03.2006	604	200 (Approx.)	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 prospective buyer was available
2	Bundapani Tea Estate		13.07.2013	1215	68	The State Govt. has taken possession of the land of the closed Bundapani T.E on 15 th October, 2014, on expiry of lease of land.
3	Dharanipur Tea Estate		19.10.2013	357	450 (Approx.)	The State Govt. has taken possession of the land of the closed Dharanipur T.E on 18 th November, 2014.
4	Redbank Tea Estate		19.10.2013	888	700 (Approx.)	The State Govt. has taken possession of the land of the closed Redbank T.E on 21 st November, 2014, on expiry of lease of land.
5	Surendranagar Tea Estate		19.10.2013	301	150 (Approx.)	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 Tea Estate		23.09.2014	947	-	As per an official information, the process of sale of the property is under process
7	Panighata Tea Estate		10.10.2015	787	-	Labour unrest due to non-payment of workers dues etc.
8	Manabari Tea Estate		21.03.2016	374	116	Labour unrest due to non-payment of workers dues etc.
9	Kumlai Tea Estate		15-11-2015	1118	-	Labour unrest due to non settlement of labour dues etc.

10.	M/s Peermade Tea Co. Ltd.- Peermade&L onetree Tea Estate	Kerala	01.04.2016	220	-	Labour unrest due to 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 Tea Estate		23.12.2013/ 11.10.2014	375	-	The company has got a stay order from the Kerala High Court prohibiting action against the company presently under Tea Act.
12	Bonaccord Tea Estate		05.03.2015	220	-	Estate Management has abandoned the estate due to financial crisis.
