

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1802
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27th JULY, 2022

CLOSURE OF TEA GARDENS

1802. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

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

- (a) the details and the number of closed tea gardens in North Bengal districts, including Darjeeling and Kalimpong during the last ten years;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reopen these closed tea gardens and ensure that these function properly;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposals from West Bengal Government for taking over of the closed tea gardens in the State and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of welfare schemes, benefits and livelihood support provided by the Tea Board to impacted workers of closed tea gardens; and
- (e) the details of projects undertaken by Tea Board, including funds allocation and utilization towards support of workers for their welfare?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): At present, there are 8 tea gardens closed in the State of West Bengal. The details of closed tea gardens is given in Annexure.

(b): The tea gardens are monitored by the Central Government through the Tea Board. In the past steps have been taken by the State Government by cancelling land lease of some closed tea gardens and taking possession of the land to find out new entrepreneurs. One of the closed tea garden was

officially liquidated by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court and put up for e-auction. However, no prospective buyer was available. Another closed tea garden is under the possession of the Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP) as per direction of (National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Kolkata Bench. The IRP is in the final stage of finalizing resolution plan.

(c): No proposal has been received from the State Government of West Bengal for taking over closed tea estates.

(d) & (e): Tea Board has implemented certain welfare activities under Human Resource Development (HRD) component of the "Tea Development and Promotion Scheme" during the Medium Term Framework period from 2017-18 to 2019-20 and extended till 2020-21, aimed at improving the health and hygiene of workers, education of wards of workers and imparting training to improve skills for growers/workers. Financial assistance of Rs.7.83 Crore has been provided by the Tea Board under the HRD component during this period. The "Tea Development & Promotion Scheme" approved for implementation by Tea Board during the 15th Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 has a component for the welfare of small tea growers and their workers.

ANNEXURE**Details of closed tea gardens**

Sl. No.	Name of the Tea Garden	District	Date of Closure
1	Panighata Tea Estate	Darjeeling	10.10.2015
2	Dheklapara Tea Estate	Alipurduar	11.03.2006
3	Bundapani Tea Estate	Alipurduar	13.07.2013
4	Dharanipur Tea Estate	Jalpaiguri	21.10.2013
5	Redbank Tea Estate	Jalpaiguri	19.10.2013
6	Surendranagar Tea Estate	Jalpaiguri	19.10.2013
7	Lankapara Tea Estate	Alipurduar	July 2015
8	Dooteriah Tea Estate	Darjeeling	09.06.2019
