

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 81
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08th FEBRUARY, 2023

CLOSURE OF TEA ESTATES

***81. SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:**

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

- (a) the number of tea estates functional in the country especially in Assam and the amount of tea exported during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether a number of tea estates in the country including few in Assam are either sick or are lying closed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the period since when these have remained closed, State-wise;
- (d) the number of such estates revived/reopened during the last three years, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted/proposes to conduct any study to ascertain the causes behind these estates turning sick; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री (श्री पीयूष गोयल)

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 81 FOR ANSWER ON 8TH FEBRUARY, 2023 REGARDING “CLOSURE OF TEA ESTATES”

(a): There are a total of 1,567 tea estates in the country, of which 762 tea estates are in Assam. The amount of tea exported during the last three years is given below:

Years	Qty (Million Kgs.)	Value (Rs. Cr.)
2019-20	241.34	5457.10
2020-21	203.79	5311.53
2021-22	200.79	5415.78
2022-23 (upto December, 2022)	189.18	5132.46

Source: Tea Board

(b) & (c) : There is no specific definition for sick / closed tea estates in the Tea Act, 1953. An estate is considered closed by the Tea Board if it has been declared closed by the respective State Government. Presently, a total number of 7 tea estates are closed in West Bengal and Kerala. Currently state government has not declared any tea estate as closed in Assam. The details of tea estates in the Country that are currently closed, State-wise are given below:

Sl. No.	State	Name of the Tea Estate	Period for which gardens have remained closed
1	West Bengal	Panighata T.E.	More than 7 years
2		Dheklapara T.E.	More than 16 years
3		Lankapara T.E.	More than 7 years
4		Dooteriah T.E.	More than 3 years
5	Kerala	Peermade & Lonetree T.E.	More than 6 years
6		Kottamala & Bonami T.E.	More than 9 & 8 years
7		Bonnacord T.E.	More than 7 years

Source: Tea Board

(d): None of the tea estates as mentioned above have been reopened during the last three years. However, 12 Tea Estates which were earlier closed have resumed its operations during the last three years.

(e) & (f): There is no specific definition for sick / closed tea estates in the Tea Act, 1953. The Tea Board has not yet conducted any specific study to ascertain the causes behind closure of Tea Estates. The main reason for closure of tea estates may be attributed to poor garden management system, highly debt-oriented funding strategy, ownership disputes, aging bush profile and resultant poor yield of the estates, etc.
