

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:165
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2008
REJUVENATION OF TEA GARDENS
Francis George Shri K.;Nayak Shri Ananta

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has a proposal to rejuvenate the tea gardens in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of assistance extended or proposed to be extended by Tea Board for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Government has announced revival package for the closed/abandoned tea gardens in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of tea gardens revived so far;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to take over the remaining closed/abandoned tea gardens; and g) if so, the time by when these tea gardens are likely to be taken over?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a): Yes, sir.

(b): A Special Purpose Tea Fund has been set up by the Government for assisting the tea growers for taking up large scale replanting and rejuvenation of all the old and uneconomical tea bushes.

(c) & (d): Government has announced a revival package for facilitating re-opening of the 33 closed tea gardens, lying closed as on 1.4.2007. This package provides for re-structuring of the outstanding bank loans, waiver of Tea Board loans and extension of fresh working capital from banks with interest subsidy from Government and other admissible assistance under various plan schemes of the Tea Board.

(e): So far 11 closed tea gardens have reopened.

(f) & (g): The Government has decided to invoke Section 16 E of the Tea Act for change in management of those gardens which do not reopen. This process has already started and public notice has been issued in respect of four gardens as of now.