

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1141

ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010

TEA GARDENS H

Anandan Shri K.Murugesan;Mishra Shri Mahabal

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

- (a) the details regarding closure of tea gardens during the last three years alongwith the date of closure, number of workers effected, owner company, area of cultivation of each closed tea garden during the last three years;
- (b) whether legal action has been taken by the Government against companies/ owners of closed tea gardens;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to give permission for operating closed tea plantations to workers cooperatives after making amendments to the Tea Act; and
- (e) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a): There were 33 listed closed tea gardens as on 1st April, 2007. Two more gardens in Darjeeling district of West Bengal were closed after 1/4/2007 taking the total number to 35 which includes 17 in Kerala, 16 in West Bengal and 2 in Assam.. Of these, 27 gardens have been reopened. There are 8 tea gardens reported to be closed as on October, 2010. These include 3 in West Bengal and 5 in Kerala. The details are given in Annexure.

(b) and (c): Yes, Madam. Section 16(E) of the Tea Act, 1953 has been invoked in respect of Lone Tree and Peermade Tea Gardens in Kerala and Chinchula and Bamondanga-Toondo Tea Gardens in West Bengal. The owners of the 2 gardens in Kerala have moved the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala and obtained a stay. The other two gardens in West Bengal have since reopened.

The Hon'ble Calcutta High Court has been moved for granting permission for invoking Section 16(E) against the 5 tea gardens namely Raimatang, Kalchini, Chamurchi, Dheklapara and Red Bank in West Bengal. Out of these, first three gardens have since been reopened and Dheklapara Tea Garden has been sold out as per the orders of the High Court. The orders of the High Court are awaited in respect of Red Bank.

(d): No, Madam.

(e): Does not arise.