

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2634
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
TEA GARDENS
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- (a) whether a number of tea gardens have fallen sick and have been closed in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of tea gardens affected and closed down and the number of persons affected thereon, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to revive and reopen these gardens and closed factories and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken and results achieved so far in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government and the Tea Board of India has prepared any blue print to improve the tea industry in the country and to create a special corpus fund for re-plantation and rejuvenation of the tea gardens and the tea industry and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Assam is likely to adopt Kenyan model of regulating the tea processing units to ensure quality and if so, the details thereof and the present position thereof along with the measures being taken by the Tea Board to ensure the quality of tea; and
- (e) whether the tea factories have been barred from procuring tea leaves from agents and will have to procure the same from the small tea growers directly and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

(a): From mid 1999 to 2007 conditions adversely affected the viability of tea gardens, resulting in closure/abandonment of as many as 130 gardens. However, from 2008 onwards, almost all the closed gardens have been re-opened. As on date only six gardens remain closed – 03 (three) in West Bengal, 02 (two) in Kerala and 01 (one) in Assam .The reasons for closure and the number of workers affected are shown in the table below: :

Sl. No.	State	Estate closure	Month affected	Reasons	Number of workers
1	Lone Tree	Dec 2000	Labour unrest.	660	
2	Kerala	Pirmed	729		
3	Dheklapara	Aug 2002	Financial crisis	544	
4	West Ringtong	Feb 2008	Abandoned by owners	837	
5	Bengal Dalmore	July2012	Labour unrest.	1021	
6	Rani	Mar2010	Labour unrest.	105	
Assam					
Total		3896			

(d): Adopting Kenyan model for Assam has been found to be not feasible as the structure of the Kenyan tea industry is totally at variance with that of Assam. Taking into account, the profile of the tea industry in Assam, detailed regulatory guidelines have been

formulated and issued to all tea factories sourcing green leaf from small tea growers, with regard to the quality of green leaf and the method of fixing the minimum price for the green leaf, each month based on the auction sale average.

(e): No, Madam. No such directives have been issued by Tea Board.