

matters stand, an assurance was given by the erstwhile Punjab Government that no municipal taxes would be imposed for a period of 25 years in the interest of the speedy development of the town. These are the main reasons which have prompted us to take this decision.

SHRI A. N. VIDYALANKAR : Does the Minister feel the time is ripe now to reconsider the whole position and revise the present status of Chandigarh so far as municipal administration is concerned.

SHRI K. C. PANT : The matter has also been gone into thrice, twice in the Home Minister's Advisory Committee and once in the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee. On all these occasions, the ultimate decision was not to proceed with it.

Closure of Tea gardens in Darjeeling area (West Bengal)

*382. **SHRI GADADHAR SAHA :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of tea gardens have been closed down in Darjeeling area, West Bengal ;

(b) if so, their number and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether Government are providing short-term capital to these tea gardens for reopening them ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) There is no scheme under consideration for providing short-term capital to reopen the closed tea garden.

Statement

(a) and (b). Three tea gardens in Darjeeling were closed down during the 5 years

ending 1969. One tea garden was closed down due to uneconomic working ; another tea garden was requisitioned for defence purposes and the third garden which was closed down due to uneconomic working had been resumed by the West Bengal Government under the Estates Acquisition Act.

SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Is it a fact that a large number of tea gardens have been closed in the Darjeeling hill area ? If so, what is the number, what are the causes for the closure and what remedial measures have been taken to reopen them ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : As I stated in the main answer, three gardens have been closed, the main reason in the case of two being uneconomic working and in the other case, it was taken over for defence purposes. There is no proposal at the moment to open any of them.

Per Capita Development expenditure in States during Fourth Plan

*378. **SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA :** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) how would the per capita development expenditure in States vary during the Fourth Plan ; and

(b) the comparative figures during the earlier Plan periods ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) and (b). A statement indicating per capita plan outlays during the Fourth Plan period and comparative figures of per capita expenditure during the earlier periods, is laid on the Table of the House.