

(d) As and when an armed conflict and/or war breaks out between India and another country, emergency is declared under the Constitution and the Defence of India Act is enacted under which "enemy" is defined. It also provides for vesting of properties of enemy nationals in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India, Bombay.

The Defence of India Act lapses 6 months after the expiry of the emergency. The Enemy Property Act of 1968, as amended from time to time, provides for the continuation of vesting of these enemy properties in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India even after the expiry of the Defence of India Act and Rules framed thereunder.

(c) the Custodian of Enemy Property for India, Bombay, is a statutory body set up under the Enemy Property Act, 1968, as amended from time to time, and functions under the overall supervision of the Government of India.

#### **Sick Tea Gardens in Southern Assam**

2760. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of sick and weak tea gardens in Southern Assam, some of which have already been abandoned and the rest are also not in a position to survive;

(b) if so, the specific measures taken by the Tea Board to revitalise these gardens;

(c) whether Government have contemplated any steps to save lives of tea labourers of these gardens; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d). A survey by the Tea Board, sometime back revealed that there were 47 weak

tea gardens and 5 closed tea gardens in Assam. The incidence of sickness/weakness of these gardens has decreased since then owing to improved economic conditions and continued stability in the State. The difficulties faced by sick and weak tea gardens are quite complex arising out of the diverse causes such as managerial/financial problems protracted litigation etc. These have been discussed with the commercial banks under the aegis of Tea Board to facilitate funding and related measures.

Tea Board has several schemes for welfare of plantation workers in tea estates. These welfare schemes inter-alia include providing grant to the wards of the tea gardens workers for pursuing studies above the primary level and also providing financial assistance to educational institutions, hospitals etc. for construction of health centres, extension of educational and vocational training and specialised treatment facilities for the benefit of the tea garden workers and their families.

#### **Working of KVIC in Andhra Pradesh**

2761. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a review of the activities of the KVIC in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that an outside agency is being invited to examine the working of KVIC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Every year, while considering the budget proposals of the implementing agencies viz State KVI Boards, Institutions, the progress achieved is reviewed. Only then the programme for