

(c) Non-viable societies are those which do not fall under the above two categories.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Clearance to NIMZs in Karnataka

1861.DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has approached the Ministry for an in-principle clearance for establishment of two National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZs) in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has met with the approval of the Ministry; and

(c) when will the Ministry advise the State Government of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka has recently written to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion that they would like to rework the proposal for establishment of NIMZs in the state and submit an amended proposal.

Soil conditions of tea estates in hills

1862.SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had conducted any study by Tea Board to ascertain the soil condition of tea estates situated in hills;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to rain and use of chemical fertilizers, top soil of most of the tea gardens in hilly areas have been severely damaged; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to improve the conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Tea Board conducted studies on the soil conditions of tea estates situated in hills through Tea Research institutes in the country and research data shows that there is

depletion/damage of top soil due to heavy rain and use of chemical fertilizers.

(c) Useful scientific information generated through field experiments conducted by Tea Research Institutes are disseminated to the tea industry in the form of advisory bulletin. By and large, the tea industry follow the recommendations of the research institutes. The Tea Research Institutes recommend the application of organic manures, closure planting, mulching of exposed areas immediately after planting and also advocate using cover crops in order to arrest tea soil erosion and protect the top soils to avoid damage for the improvement of soil conditions in the tea plantations in hilly areas.

Decline of tea production in South India

1863. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that production of tea in southern parts of the country is on decline due to a combination of factors like the age of plantation, labour shortage and erratic climate;

(b) whether the production of tea from south decreased from 246.9 million kg. in 2008 to 240.88 million kg in 2011; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to bail-out tea industry in southern parts by giving attractive package for re-planting programme for age old tea bushes in these regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The details of tea production in South India during 2008-09 to 2011-12 are as under:

Year	South India (in Million kg)
2008-09	238.74
2009-10	256.80
2010-11	238.21
2011-12 (E)	236.81

E=Estimated production and subject to revision

It can be seen that the decline is about 1.93 million kg over this period. The