

Several steps have been initiated for reopening of closed tea gardens. A Rehabilitation package for revival of the closed tea gardens was notified by the Government in June, 2007, which provides for restructuring of bank loans, interest subsidy on working capital, deferred payment of PF dues, waiver of outstanding loans under the Tea Board loan schemes and according priority for providing developmental assistance under Tea Board Development Schemes. However, the gardens could not avail of the package as the owners were unable to reopen the tea gardens due to legal hurdles. Further, Section 16(E) of the Tea Act, 1953 which provides for handing over the management of the tea gardens to new entrepreneurs was invoked to reopen some of the tea gardens. The same has, however, been challenged in the High Courts by the owners of tea gardens and hence they continue to remain closed.

**Statement**

*Details of tea-gardens closed, state-wise*

State	Name of Tea Garden	Month of closure
Kerala	1. Lone Tree	December, 2000
	2. Pirmed	December, 2000
West Bengal	3. Dheklapara	August, 2002
	4. Ringtong	February, 2008
	5. Bundapani	July, 2013
	6. Redbank	October, 2013
	7. Surendranagar	October, 2013
Assam	8. Dharanipur	October, 2013
	9. Rani	March, 2010

**Unemployment problem**

1506. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that the country is reeling under serious unemployment problem; and

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating any plan for filling up the vacancies in posts in various Government offices, Public Sector Undertakings including Railways and other Departments, alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH) : (a) and (b) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. As per the results of the recent surveys conducted during 2009-10 and 2011-12 unemployment has marginally increased from 2.0 per cent to 2.2 per cent, however, total employment increased from 465.5 to 474.1 million persons.

Filling up of vacancies in posts in various Government offices, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) including railway and other departments is a matter of priority and is being actively pursued and is a continuing process. Vacancies are filled up on an ongoing basis as per requirements of various departments.

#### **Upgradation/modernisation of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries**

1507. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to upgrade and modernise some Employees' State Insurance (ESI) hospitals and dispensaries in the country;

(b) if so, the State/UT-wise details thereof;

(c) the State/UT-wise number of such hospitals and dispensaries running in rented accommodation; and

(d) the State/UT-wise details of the funds spent on these hospitals and dispensaries during each of the last three years and the current year and the number of labourers/workers benefited from these hospitals and dispensaries during the said period along with the facilities provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State/UT-wise details of Employees' State Insurance (ESI) hospitals and dispensaries taken-up for upgradation/modernisation are given in Statement-I (*See below*)