

Closure of tea gardens

†*352. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise list of tea gardens lying closed, presently;
- (b) whether Government has chalked out any programme to revive these closed tea gardens;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) At present 12 tea gardens are reported to be closed in the country. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) The condition of tea gardens is monitored regularly by the Central Government through the Tea Board to facilitate reopening of the closed gardens. Government of India has requested the State Government to provide the benefits of social and economic development/welfare schemes of Central and State Government to all tea growing areas.

State Governments concerned have been taking several steps for revival of the closed gardens. The West Bengal Government has cancelled land lease in respect of Bundapani, Redbank, Dharanipur and Surendranagar tea estates and taken possession of the land to find out new entrepreneurs. Dheklapara estate was officially liquidated by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court and the garden was put up for e-auction. However, no prospective buyer was available. Panighata, Manabari, Joybirpara and Kumlai Tea Estate has been recently closed due to labour unrest. While the Government of Kerala has extended various relief measures to the workers of the closed Tea Estates, efforts are also being made for reviving MMJ Plantations-Kottamala and Bonami Tea Estate and M/s Peermade Tea Co. Ltd.-Peermade and Lonetree Tea Estates.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement*State-wise details of Closed Tea Gardens/Estates in the country*

Sl. No.	Name of the Tea Estate (T.E.)	State	Area under Tea (Ha)	No. of Workers	
				Permanent	Temporary
1.	Dheklapara T.E.	West Bengal	197	604	200 (Approx.)
2.	Bundapani T.E.		530	1215	68
3.	Dharanipur T.E.		265	357	450 (Approx.)
4.	Redbank T.E.		369	888	700 (Approx.)
5.	Surendranagar T.E.		172	301	150 (Approx.)
6.	Madhu T.E.		323	947	0
7.	Panighata T.E.		460.15	787	0
8.	Manabari		281.08	374	116
9.	Joybirpara		220.66	636	0
10.	Kumlai		403.14	1118	0
11.	M/s Peermade Tea Co. Ltd.-Peermade and Lonetree T.E.	Kerala	679.79	220	0
12.	M/s MMJ Plantations-Kottamala and Bonami T.E.		677.51	375	0

Awareness towards cultural heritage in the country

*353. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up any centres in the country to spread awareness among people towards cultural heritage in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) To protect, preserve and promote various forms of art and to spread awareness among people towards cultural heritage in the