

of the tea plantations resulting in closure/lockout of the some of the gardens. As per the information available, during the year 2002, 36 gardens spread over the States of Kerala, West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura were closed down due to financial crisis, resulting in unemployment among the workers of these gardens. State-wise details of the tea gardens closed and the number of workers affected are as follows:

State	No. of Gardens	No. of workers affected
West Bengal	19	19619
Kerala	11	6648
Assam	3	1661
Tripura	3	550
Total:	36	28478

Taking over on closed tea gardens in Kerala

2260. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Kerala for taking over the closed tea gardens in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision in this regard has been taken by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.