

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2605
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003
SICK TEA COMPANIES
PARSURAM MAJHI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have identified the tea companies which have fallen sick;
- (b) if so, the details of such sick tea companies, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for their sickness;
- (d) the approximate number of workers affected thereby; and
- (e) the steps taken to provide them alternative employment?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : State-wise details of the tea gardens identified as sick are as follows:

State	No. of Gardens
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West Bengal	19
Kerala -	11
Assam -	3
Tripura -	3

Total: 36

(c): Ownership disputes, managerial deficiency, financial mismanagement and protracted litigation are some of the root causes for the sickness of these tea gardens. The situation has been further accentuated by the fall in the auction prices of tea over the last few years.

(d) : State-wise details of workers affected by the closure of the tea gardens are given below:

State	No. of workers affected
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West Bengal -	19619
Kerala -	6648
Assam -	1661
Tripura -	550

Total: 28478

(e): Based on the findings of the Expert Committees set up by the Government to make an in-depth study of the closed tea gardens in the States of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam & Tripura and suggest a package of measures for their viability and revival, Government is facilitating discussions by the managements of the closed tea gardens, which have been identified as potentially viable, with their

bankers to work out a revival package, which would take care of the employment aspects of the affected workers also.