

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:651
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2003
REVIVAL PACKAGE FOR CLOSED TEA GARDENS
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

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

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to introduce a revival package for the affected workers of the closed tea gardens in various States;
- (b) if so, whether that revival package has been worked out;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to implement that revival package?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) : To address the problems of closed tea gardens in the country, Government had appointed Expert Committees to make an in-depth study of such gardens in the States of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Tripura and suggest a package of measures for their viability and revival. According to the Reports of these Committees, the estates would require substantial investment in the factories and the plantation itself for their revival. Meetings were held by Deptt. of Commerce and Tea Board with the promoters of the closed tea gardens and their bankers to identify the gardens which are potentially viable and to work out a revival package. Any financial package for revival of such gardens, which are considered potentially viable, would require contribution from their promoters, the concerned Banks advancing further loans against collateral securities with restructuring the entire account, besides assistance from the Central Government which would be in the form of interest subsidy, limited to a maximum of 5%. This would be met from a special fund, which has been set up by the Government for the development, modernization and rehabilitation of the tea plantation sector.