

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4912
ANSWERED ON:23.05.2006
CLOSURE OF TEA ESTATES
Chandrappan Shri C.K.

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any Memorandum from Highrange Estates Labour Union, Permedu, Idukki Kerala regarding closure of Tea Estates and problems being faced by employees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to help 9000 employees who are the victims of this closure?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): The Highrange Estates Labour Union had submitted in their Memorandum to the Government that the workers of the nine closed tea estates of M/s.Ram Bahadur Thakur Ltd. are willing to take over the estates and run it as a viable institution. They had also requested for a personal hearing in the matter.

(c): A personal hearing was given to the Highrange Estates Labour Union in January 2006. The Government has facilitated discussions between the managements of the closed tea estates and their bankers. A revival package for the closed tea estates will have to be finalized by the management with its bankers. However, all these nine tea estates are beset with legal problems. The welfare of plantation labour and their conditions of work, including that in tea plantations, is regulated by the Plantations Labour Act 1951. The concerned State Government is the appropriate authority under this Act to monitor the implementation of the various provisions in the Act.