

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2834
ANSWERED ON 18/03/2025

REGISTERED TEA GARDENS IN WEST BENGAL

2834. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of registered tea gardens in North Bengal districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, and North Dinajpur, district-wise as on January 2025;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to specify area for each tea garden that are under cultivation and areas that have been allocated for workers housing, garden-wise;
- (c) the total number of tea gardens that are operational, temporarily locked down for two years or less and have been shut down for over two years, including the date of their shutting down;
- (d) the total number of tea gardens declared sick/closed in these districts during the last five years;
- (e) the details of relief measures provided by the Government to workers of closed/sick tea gardens;
- (f) the details of funds allocated and disbursed for worker welfare in distressed tea gardens, garden-wise; and
- (g) the details of action taken by the Government to restart the closed tea gardens during the last five years?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

- (a) The number of tea gardens in North Bengal, district-wise, is as follows:

Revenue District	No. of Estates
Darjeeling	138
Kalimpong	5
Alipurduar	62
Jalpaiguri	185
Cooch Behar	11
North Dinajpur (Uttar Dinajpur)	48
Grand Total	449

Source: Tea Board

(b) A baseline survey was conducted by the Tea Board during 2022, in which area under tea cultivation, garden-wise, was captured. However, the matter related to workers housing does not come under the purview of Tea board and is covered under Plantation Labour Act, 1951, which is implemented by the respective State Governments.

(c) The total number of operational tea gardens in West Bengal is 435. The details of tea gardens that have been shut down for 2 years or less are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the T.E.	District	Date of closure
1	Rungmook /Ceders	Darjeeling	24.04.2023
2	Moondakotee	Darjeeling	24.09.2023
3	Chongtong	Darjeeling	28.09.2023
4	Nagri	Darjeeling	28.09.2023
5	Ambootia	Darjeeling	10.10.2023
6	Pandam	Darjeeling	22.08.2024
7	Dalsingpara	Alipurduar	15.10.2023
8	Ramjhora	Alipurduar	01.11.2023
9	Dheklapara	Alipurduar	14.12.2023
10	Sonali	Jalpaiguri	30.12.2023

Source: Tea Board

The details of tea gardens that have been shut down for over 2 years are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the T.E.	District	Date of closure
1	Dooteriah	Darjeeling	09.06.2019
2	Panighata	Darjeeling	10.10.2015
3	Lankapara	Alipurduar	28.01.2016
4	Raipur	Jalpaiguri	12.09.2016

Source: Tea Board

(d) There is no specific definition for sick tea gardens as per Tea Act, 1953. A Garden is considered closed by the Tea Board on the basis of the report received from the concerned State Government. As per Tea Board, in West Bengal, 14 tea gardens were closed during the last 5 years, out of which 4 gardens have been re-opened and are operational currently.

(e) to (g) The working condition of tea garden workers in the country is governed by the Plantation Labour Act, which is implemented by the State Governments concerned. There is no definition of distressed gardens. Providing relief measures to workers of closed tea gardens is under the purview of State Government.

While the workers issues are under the purview of concerned State Governments, the Central Government through Tea Board implements the scheme 'Tea Development & Promotion Scheme' with the objective which inter alia include increasing productivity & quality of tea and welfare measures, under which there are provisions for providing book and uniform grants to the wards of workers of closed tea estates & gardens affected by natural calamities and assistance for disabled and critically ill dependents of workers (kidney, heart, liver diseases and cancer) in closed tea gardens.