

**Tea Act, 1953**

**Section 16B - Power to Cause Investigation to Be Made in Relation to a Tea Undertaking or Tea Unit**

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- (1) Where the Central Government is of opinion in respect of a tea undertaking or a tea unit that--
- (a) the tea undertaking or, as the case may be, the tea unit, has made losses in three out of five years immediately preceding the year in which such opinion is formed; or
  - (b) the average yield of the tea undertaking, or, as the case may be, the tea unit, during three years out of five years immediately preceding the year in which such opinion is formed, has been lower than the district average yield by twenty-five per cent, or more; or
  - (c) the persons owning the tea undertaking, or, as the case may be, the tea unit, have habitually made default in the payment of wages, or provident fund dues of workers and other employees, or rent of the land, or duties of excise, or such other dues as they are under an obligation to pay under any law for the time being in force; or
  - (d) the tea undertaking, or, as the case may be, the tea unit, is being managed in a manner highly detrimental to the tea industry or to public interest, the Central Government may make or cause to be made, a full and complete investigation into the affairs of the tea undertaking or, as the case may be, the tea unit, by such person or body or persons as it may appoint for the purpose.
- (2) Where a company owning a tea undertaking is being wound up by or under the supervision of the Court and the business of such company is not being continued, the Central Government may, if it is of opinion that it is necessary, in the interests of the general public, and, in particular, in the interest of production, supply or distribution of tea, to investigate into the possibility of running or restraining the tea undertaking, make an application to the Court praying for permission to make, or cause to be made, an investigation into such possibility by such person or body or persons as that Government may appoint for the purpose; and, where such an application is made, the Court shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the Companies Act, 1956, or in any other law for the time being in force, grant the permission prayed for.
- (3) The person or body of persons appointed to make any investigation under sub-section (1) or as the case may be, sub-section (2), shall have the same powers as are specified in section 18 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.
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