

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1319
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13th March, 2023

UNDERUTILISATION OF DEFENCE LAND

1319 DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area of land/land holdings (in acres) with the Ministry which remains unutilized and underutilized respectively;
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted to demarcate the boundaries of these landholdings;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to monetize the said holdings through the process of auction, leasing or otherwise; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with a tentative timeline for executing the same?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a): Approximately 45906 acres of defence land under management of different Services and organisations of Ministry of Defence is presently lying vacant. Post corporatization of Ordnance Factory Board, surplus land of approximately 3152 acres located at 16 Ordnance Factories has been identified.

(b)&(c): Yes, Sir. During survey of defence land, Phase-II, survey of all identified defence land pockets have been completed in the month of December, 2021. Peripheral survey of 1.61 lakh acres defence land inside the Cantonments and boundary survey of 16.18 lakh acres of defence land outside the Cantonments has been completed.

(d) & (e): The available land under the management of Service Headquarters is used for bonafide military purposes only and for strategic operational and security needs of the nation.

The unutilized land is primarily used to cater to the future needs of the forces. As per Ministry of Defence (MoD) letter dated 02.02.2016, requests for transfer of defence land received from Central Government Departments, State Government and organizations controlled by it as also local bodies for execution of public infrastructure / utility projects are considered on merits, on the basis of exchange of equal value land or, in case the Indenting Authority is neither land owning agency nor has such an arrangement with State/ UT Governments, on payment of current market value of land. As per this policy, the defence land can also be given on lease/ license with premium and rent fixed on the basis of nature of public project. Further, in terms of MoD letter dated 21.10.2020, the defence land can also be transferred against creation of equal value infrastructure for land owning units of Defence.
