

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2856**  
**ANSWERED ON 24.03.2023**

**ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF RAILWAY LAND**

2856 SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a vast land of Railways has been in unauthorized occupation in various states, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the efforts Railways has made to reoccupy it, State wise;
- (c) whether it is justifiable for State Governments/Departments/etc., to provide water, electricity, roads and other civic amenities to such illegal occupants; and
- (d) if so, the reasons Railway have not taken objections for the same?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a): As on 31.03.2022, out of 4.86 lakh hectare of Railway land, a total of 782.81 hectare (0.16%) of Railway land is under encroachment in various parts of the country.

(b): Railways carry out regular surveys and take action for their removal. In case of encroachments of temporary nature (soft encroachments) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopris and squatters, the same are removed in consultation and with the assistance of Railway Protection Force and local civil authorities. For old encroachments which are in form of a pucca structures (hard encroachment), where party is not amenable to persuasion, action is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 (PPE Act, 1971), as amended from time to time. Actual eviction of unauthorized occupants is carried out with the assistance of State Government and local administration/police. Due to consistent efforts of Railways, a total of 38.64 Hectare of land has been retrieved from encroachment during the last 3 years.

(c) & (d): No, Sir. Railways always oppose the State Government/ Department's decision to provide water, electricity connections and other civic amenities to unauthorized occupants of Railway land. Further, State Government authorities are regularly requested to help in removal of unauthorized encroachments from Railway land.

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