

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 911
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2024

ENCROACHMENT ON RAILWAY PROPERTY

911. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:
SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures which have been taken to address the encroachment of approximately 782.81 hectares of railway land;
- (b) whether Government is collaborating with local bodies and authorities to combat encroachment of railway land, especially in metropolitan cities; and
- (c) whether Government has established a timeline for the removal of all encroachments, excluding those pending in courts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): Railways carry out regular surveys for identifying encroachments and take continuous action for their removal. If the encroachments are of temporary nature (soft encroachments) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopris and squatters, the same are got removed in consultation and with the assistance of Railway Protection Force and local civil authorities. For old encroachments, 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 police.

Railway aims to eventually remove all encroachments on its land and properties following due process of law. However, given the complex nature of the individual cases of encroachment which often requires dealing with State and Local administration to maintain law and order, it is not possible to give a specific timeline for the same. Due to continuous efforts, a total of 33.67 Hectare of Railways land has been retrieved from encroachment during the past five years (2018-19 to 2022-23).
