

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2187
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

ENCROACHMENT OF RAILWAY LAND

2187. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that large tracts of land belonging to the Railways are under encroachment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) steps taken by Government to retrieve the lands under encroachment; and
- (d) measures taken by Government to put land under productive use?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): As on 31.03.2024, out of total 4.90 lakh hectare of Railway land, about 1078 hectare of Railway land is under encroachment in various parts of the country.

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.

The encroached railway land after retrieval, is utilized for infrastructural development of Railway viz. Multi Tracking, Station Development Works, plantation, Staff amenities works, etc as per site condition. Also, the land, which is not immediately required by Railway, is entrusted to RLDA for commercial utilisation.
