

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 842
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

ENCROACHMENT OF DEFENCE LANDS IN WEST BENGAL

842 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that approximately 800 acres of defence land have been encroached upon in the State of West Bengal, including areas near key military stations and cantonments such as Barrackpore, Jalapahar, and Lebong;
- (b) whether Government is aware of persistent encroachment attempts around the Kolkata Maidan, which comprises about 1,000 acres of defence land, and the challenges faced in preventing such encroachments;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to identify, prevent, and remove these encroachments on defence land in West Bengal; and
- (d) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive plan for securing defence land across the State?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SANJAY SETH)

- (a) & (b): Out of 43493 acres of defence land in the State of West Bengal, 1540.85 acres is under encroachment. Out of total encroached land, 2.3716 acres is under encroachment in Barrackpore, whereas there is nil encroachment in Jalapahar and Lebong Cantonments.
- (c) & (d): Detection, prevention and removal of encroachment is a continuous exercise. Action for removal of encroachment on defence land is taken under the provision of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 as well as under the Cantonments Act, 2006. Following steps are taken by the Government to protect land from encroachment: -
 - (i) Regular inspection of Defence Lands is carried out by the concerned offices and they are required to submit annual certificates as per rules.
 - (ii) As and when encroachments are detected, they are removed by carrying out anti-encroachment drives after following due process of law is close coordination with police authorities and district administration.
 - (iii) Defence land records have been digitized.

- (iv) A Land Management System has been put in place wherein GIS layers of encroachments have been deployed.
- (v) Defence Land Audit has been institutionalized from 2011-12 as a continuing process.
- (vi) A methodology for evaluating “Threat” of encroachment on defence land has been devised. Based on threat value, steps to be taken by the concerned officers have been communicated to the field offices.
- (vii) An encroachment module has been enabled in 2020 on DGDE website for reporting encroachments on defence land by the general public.
- (viii) Government has allocated funds for construction of boundary wall/ fences/ pillars around the certain vulnerable defence land pockets.
