

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1546
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2025

ENCROACHMENT OF RAILWAY LAND

1546. DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the land parcels of Railways presently under encroachment in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) since when such land parcels are under encroachment;
- (c) the steps taken so far to get these land parcels free from encroachment;
- (d) the system in place to stop such encroachments of railway land; and
- (e) the details of railway land parcels freed from encroachment in the last five years?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): As on 31.03.2025, the total land in possession of Indian Railways is about 4.99 lakh hectares out of which 1068.54 hectares is encroached in various parts of the country for quite a long period.

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 the form of 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 Railways, is entrusted to Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) for commercial utilisation.

During the past five years, 98.02 hectares of railway land has been freed from encroachment.
