

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5273
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2017**

ENCROACHMENT OF RAILWAY LAND

**† 5273. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI VINAYAK BHURAO RAUT:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total vacant land of Railways and the land encroached in the last three years, zone-wise;**
- (b) the new land acquired by the Railways for its future requirements during each of the last three years along with the cost and present status thereof, zone-wise;**
- (c) whether the Railways has fixed responsibility of the recent encroachments and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the regular surveys are carried out by the Railways for removal of its encroached land and if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) the total area of land got realised from the encroachers during each of the last three years, zone-wise;**
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to set up a mechanism to fix the responsibility of their officials for any new encroachment; and**
- (g) whether the vacant land of Railways is required for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges and other railway infrastructure and also utilised for execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)**

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5273 BY SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV, SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO, SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL, DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE, SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT, SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE AND DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.04.2017 REGARDING ENCROACHMENT OF RAILWAY LAND

(a) to (g): Zone-wise details/data of total vacant railway land and encroached railway land for the last three years are as under:-

(Figures in Hectares)

Zonal Railway	Vacant land (as on)			Encroached Land (as on)		
	31-3-14	31-3-15	31-3-16	31-3-14	31-3-15	31-3-16
Central	2855	2739	2681	59.97	59.82	59.31
Eastern	2212	2246	2247	21.31	20.85	20.71
East Central	4299	4299	4298	3.48	3.02	2.40
East Coast	2193	2709	2840	19.81	17.05	15.28
Northern	8314	8120	11991	210.21	209.19	206.37
North Central	975	747	788	41.19	41.17	40.98
North Eastern	5772	5771	5770	25.69	25.63	25.63
Northeast Frontier	1305	1332	1402	147.32	125.99	106.26
North Western	439	438	1278	17.29	19.04	19.02
Southern	2576	2577	2722	61.61	60.51	60.49
South Central	1371	1365	1364	11.41	18.77	17.62
South Eastern	467	468	470	158.87	158.09	156.17
Southeast Central	3162	3161	3331	55.48	55.45	49.15
South Western	4133	4191	4245	16.30	16.26	16.26
Western	5549	5204	5876	41.44	41.44	41.44
West Central	487	487	621	37.02	36.78	36.68
Production Units	300	479	478	2	5.74	5.74
Total	46409	46333	52402	930.40	914.80	879.51

The vacant land, which is mostly in the form of narrow strips along the tracks, is used for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges and other railway infrastructure. The vacant land is also utilized for execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs of Railways which include projects like doubling/tripling and traffic facilities works, etc.

Railways carry out regular surveys and take action for removal of encroachments. If the encroachments are of a temporary nature (soft encroachment) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopries and squatters, the same are got removed in consultation with and 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. However, removal of encroachment is a continuous process.

The details of land retrieved from encroachments during the last three years i.e. (2013-14, 2014-15 & 2015-16) are as under:-

(Figures in Hectare)

Zonal Railway	Area retrieved from encroachment		
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Central	0	0.15	0.51
Eastern	0.03	0.46	0.14
East Central	0.21	0.46	0.62
East Coast	0	2.76	1.77
Northern	4.39	1.02	2.82
North Central	0.21	0.01	0.20
North Eastern	0.22	0.06	0
Northeast Frontier	13.04	21.32	19.99
North Western	0.57	0	0.02
Southern	0.03	1.1	0.02
South Central	0.25	0	1.15
South Eastern	0.91	0.78	1.92
South East Central	0	0.03	6.30

South Western	0	0	0
Western	1.07	0	0
West Central	3.62	0.24	0.11
TOTAL	24.55	28.39	35.57

The land holding of Indian Railways has increased about 15363 hectares in the last three years due to acquisition of land for new lines including railway's future requirements. However, year-wise details and cost of such acquisition is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. As there is continuous reduction in encroachment for past many years, no responsibility has been fixed in recent past. However, it has now been decided to fix the responsibility on officials for any new encroachments.

Railways have also taken measures to protect Railway land assets from encroachment which include licensing of land to Railway employees for Grow More Food (GMF) scheme, provision of boundary wall, fencing and tree plantation at vulnerable locations.
