

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 584  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2019**

**UNUTILIZED LAND**

**†584. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL “NISHANK” :**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the area of Railway land lying unutilized and undeveloped in various States of the country and the State-wise details thereof;**
- (b) the date since when this land is lying unutilized and whether the Government has created any monitoring mechanism to safeguard the said land from encroachment and if so, the details thereof;**
- c) whether the scheme of the Government to provide the said land on lease for other purposes is under consideration and if so, the details thereof;**
- d) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps for proper development and utilization of the said land; and**
- e) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 584 BY DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK" TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 06.02.2019 REGARDING UNUTILIZED LAND**

**(a) to (e): As on 31.03.2018, Indian Railways has about 0.51 lakh hectare (approximately) of vacant land. This vacant land is mostly in the form of narrow strips along tracks and utilized for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges and other 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' operations also necessarily require development of ancillary logistic support/infrastructure such as bulk oil installations and oil depots, steel yards, concrete sleeper plants, coal dumps, connectivity to private sidings, connectivity to ports and other infrastructure, commercial plots, vending stalls, etc. for which land is leased/licensed. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized in the interim period for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources. Presently, 59 sites measuring 214 hectare (approx.) where commercial development seems feasible have been entrusted to RLDA. The Railways do not maintain State-wise details of vacant Railway land. However, zone-wise details/data are maintained by Railways and the same are as under:-**

(Figures in hectares)

<b>Zonal Railway</b>	<b>Vacant Land</b>
<b>Central</b>	<b>2022.03</b>
<b>Eastern</b>	<b>2110.49</b>
<b>East Central</b>	<b>4094.75</b>
<b>East Coast</b>	<b>3011.28</b>
<b>Northern</b>	<b>11438.69</b>
<b>North Central</b>	<b>735.11</b>
<b>North Eastern</b>	<b>5564.67</b>
<b>Northeast Frontier</b>	<b>1410.45</b>
<b>North Western</b>	<b>1277.35</b>
<b>Southern</b>	<b>2741.44</b>
<b>South Central</b>	<b>1276.58</b>
<b>South Eastern</b>	<b>464.76</b>
<b>South East Central</b>	<b>3142.72</b>
<b>South Western</b>	<b>4662.15</b>
<b>Western</b>	<b>6258.54</b>
<b>West Central</b>	<b>617.45</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>50828.46</b>

**Railways carry out regular surveys of encroachment and take 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 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.**

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