

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2561

TO BE ANSWERED ON DECEMBER 22, 2022

URBAN POOR LIVING ALONG RAILWAY TRACKS

NO. 2561. SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country is witness to substantial number of urban poor living along the railway tracks under illegal and risky conditions;**
- (b) if so, the estimate of such population and the rise in such dwellers during the last five years, State-wise; and**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that people are not forced to live along railway the tracks in cities?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE)

(a): As per the information received from the Ministry of Railways (MoR), there has been existence of encroachment/illegal occupation on railway land which also includes people living along Railway Tracks.

(b): MoR has informed that the details of encroachment and population living along railway tracks is not maintained State-wise. However, the zone-wise details of Railway's land under encroachment during the last five years is at Annexure. There has been no rise in encroachment on railway land since past many years.

(c): As per the information provided by MoR, there is no provision of rehabilitation in the Railway Act 1989, whose section 147 only provides for eviction of unauthorised occupants of railway lands. 'Land' and 'Colonisation' are State subjects. Schemes related to

housing, slum redevelopment/rehabilitation including urban poor living along the railway tracks are implemented by States/Union Territories (UTs). However, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), under the vision of 'Housing for All', is supplementing the efforts of States/UTs by providing Central Assistance under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) since 25.06.2015 for construction of houses for all eligible beneficiaries including people living in slums or along railway tracks. The scheme is implemented through four verticals i.e., Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) based on eligibility criteria as per scheme guidelines. PMAY-U addresses the issue of housing shortage from demand side as well as supply side interventions through its different verticals.

As on 31.03.2022, 122.69 lakh houses were sanctioned for the eligible households including slum dwellers of urban areas with a Central Assistance of ₹2.03 lakh crore. Out of this, 65.5 lakh have been completed and delivered to the beneficiaries.

Zone-wise details of Railway's land under encroachment/illegal occupation during the last five years

(Figures in Hectares)

Zonal Railway	Railway Land under encroachment as on				
	31.03.18	31.03.19	31.03.20	31.03.21	31.03.22
Central	58.05	56.10	56.10	55.83	52.50
Eastern	20.52	20.52	20.52	22.60	21.94
East Central	1.99	1.71	1.52	1.37	1.35
East Coast	14.21	13.95	13.89	13.15	13.04
Northern	202.93	183.10	175.99	175.99	157.89
North Central	40.94	41.49	41.44	41.44	40.98
North Eastern	25.63	25.39	25.39	23.31	23.31
Northeast Frontier	98.50	95.00	93.93	93.86	93.19
North Western	18.53	18.38	18.29	18.34	18.34
Southern	58.69	55.41	54.79	55.15	55.15
South Central	16.98	16.43	15.98	15.72	14.34
South Eastern	147.82	141.75	141.16	140.93	140.60
Southeast Central	43.57	43.57	42.99	41.58	41.41
South Western	16.26	16.26	16.26	16.26	16.26
Western	39.27	51.94	53.93	52.52	50.59
West Central	34.75	34.73	36.65	36.56	36.23
Production Units	5.74	5.73	5.72	5.7	5.69
Total	844.38	821.46	814.55	810.31	782.81